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DC SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
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NO. 406
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THERE HE IS, CLARK KENT-- THE GHOST OF SUPERMAN!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! GHOSTS DON'T EXIST-- AND I'M SUPERMAN!
"THE GHOST THAT HAUNTED CLARK KENT"
"MASTER of MIRACLES"
PLUS
A TITANTIC TEAM-UP! The ATOM and the FLASH
DC ACTION COMICS
48 PAGES 25¢ BIGGER AND BETTER

BOYS! SIGN UP NOW!

The Ford-National Football League

PUNT, PASS & KICK

Competition

Ara Parseghian, Ford's National PP&K Director says: "As coach of Notre Dame I know a winner when I see one—and PP&K is a winner! I'm pleased to be Ford's National Director of PP&K, the biggest and best of all national programs for boys. Here's how it works: boys 8 through 13 compete with others their own age in PP&K. There's no body contact. PP&K is fun and exciting. I urge every boy between 8 and 13 to sign up today!"

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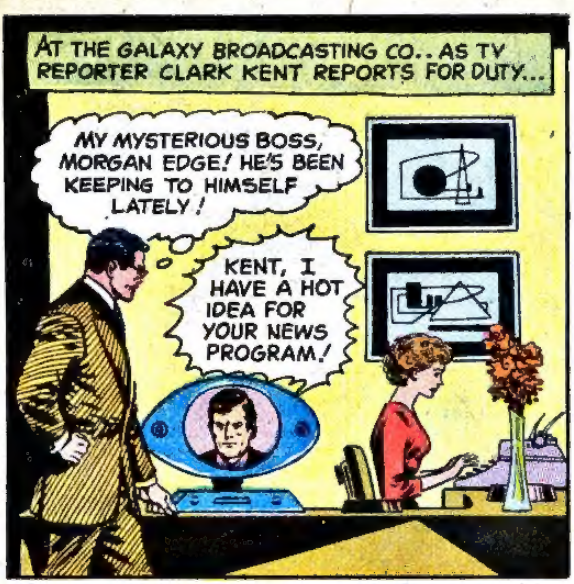
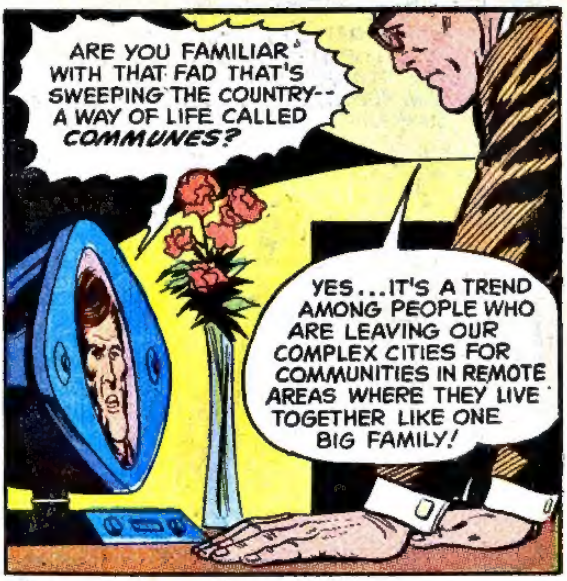
Go with your mom, dad, or legal guardian to your participating Ford Dealer and register. There's no **obligation—and everything is absolutely free.** And, PP&K has the full support of the National Football League.

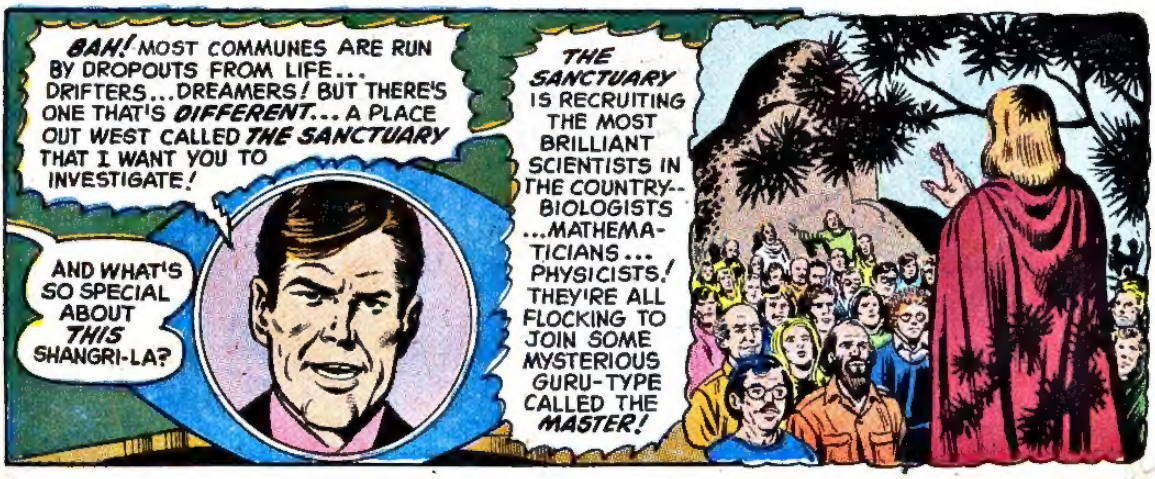
Boys who sign up get a free Tips Book filled with exciting stories, pointers and tips by NFL stars Dave Lewis, John Brodie and Curt Knight on how to Punt, Pass and Kick the way the professionals do!

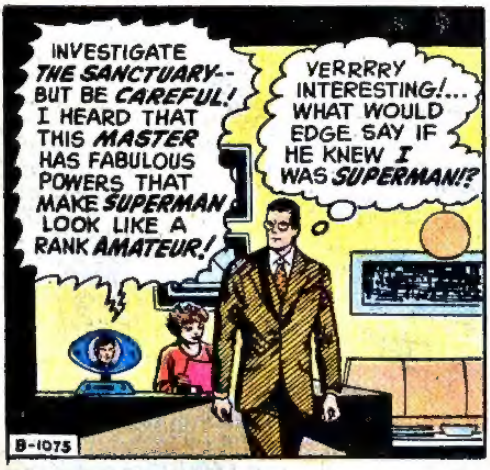
Hurry! Registration open August 16 through October 1!

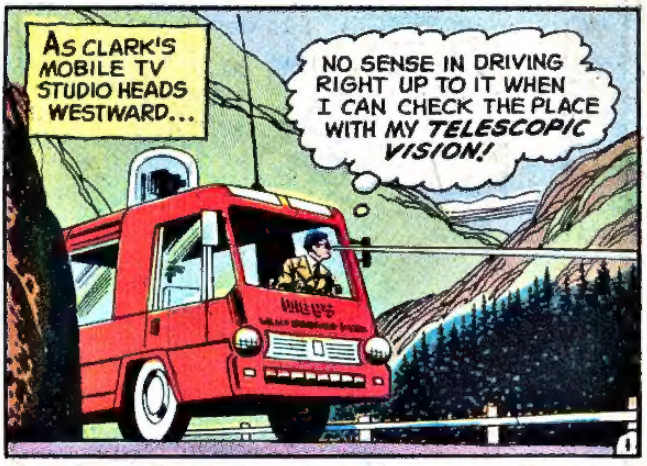
Ford











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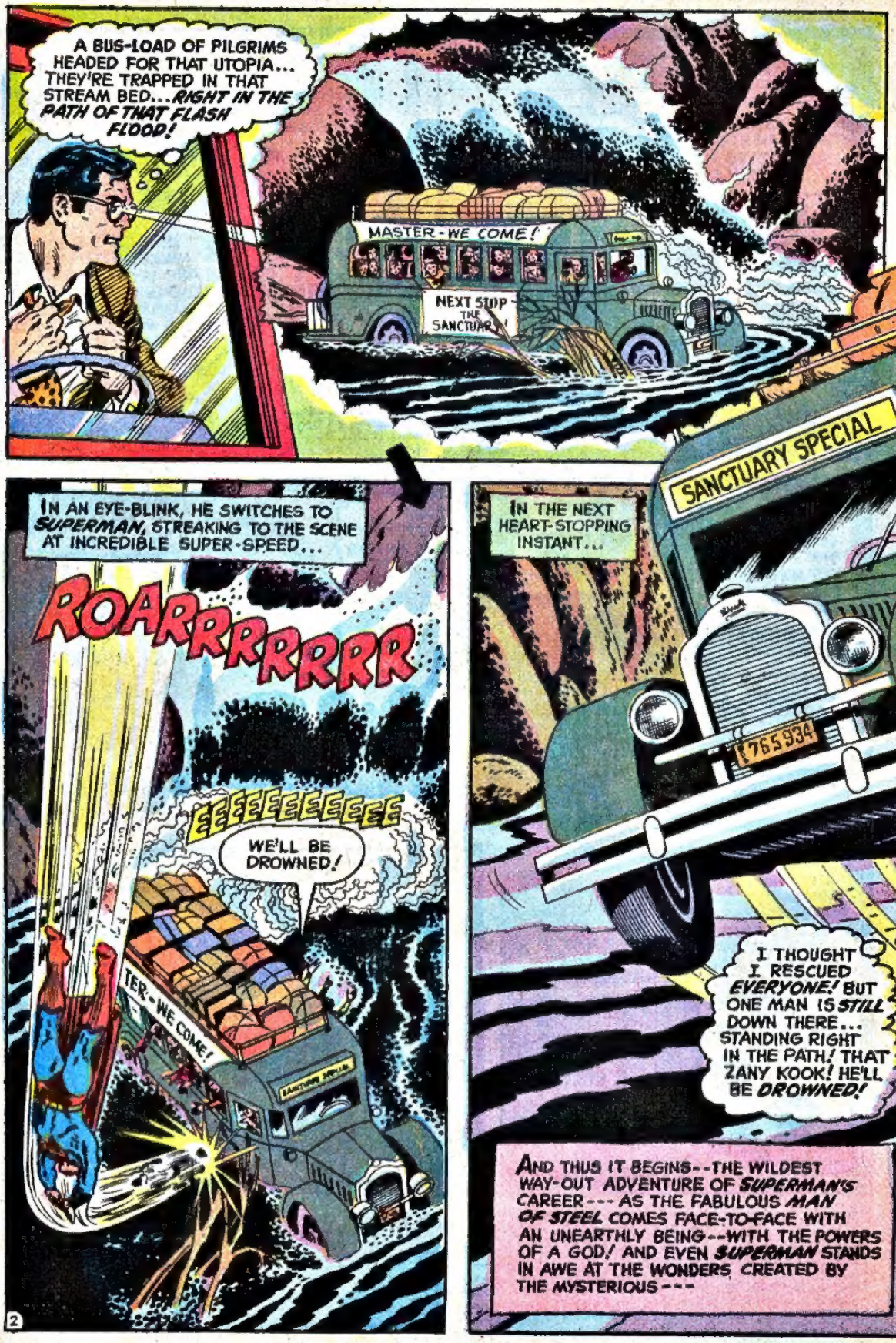
A BUS-LOAD OF PILGRIMS HEADED FOR THAT UTOPIA... THEY'RE TRAPPED IN THAT STREAM BED... RIGHT IN THE PATH OF THAT FLASH FLOOD!
MASTER - WE COME!
NEXT STOP - THE SANCTUARY!
SANCTUARY SPECIAL
IN AN EYE-BLINK, HE SWITCHES TO SUPERMAN, STREAKING TO THE SCENE AT INCREDIBLE SUPER-SPEED...
ROARRRRRRR
EEEEEEEEEEE
WE'LL BE DROWNED!
TER - WE COME!
IN THE NEXT HEART-STOPPING INSTANT...
I THOUGHT I RESCUED EVERYONE! BUT ONE MAN IS STILL DOWN THERE... STANDING RIGHT IN THE PATH! THAT ZANY KOOK! HE'LL BE DROWNED!
AND THUS IT BEGINS--THE WILDEST WAY-OUT ADVENTURE OF SUPERMAN'S CAREER--- AS THE FABULOUS MAN OF STEEL COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH AN UNEARTHLY BEING--WITH THE POWERS OF A GOD! AND EVEN SUPERMAN STANDS IN AWE AT THE WONDERS CREATED BY THE MYSTERIOUS---
2

WE'RE SAVED! SUPERMAN AIRLIFTED US... JUST IN TIME!
WATCH OUT!
BUT SUDDENLY... EERILY...
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UTTERLY FANTASTIC! HE TURNED THAT FLOOD TO SOLID ICE--INSTANTLY! ...WHO IS HE?
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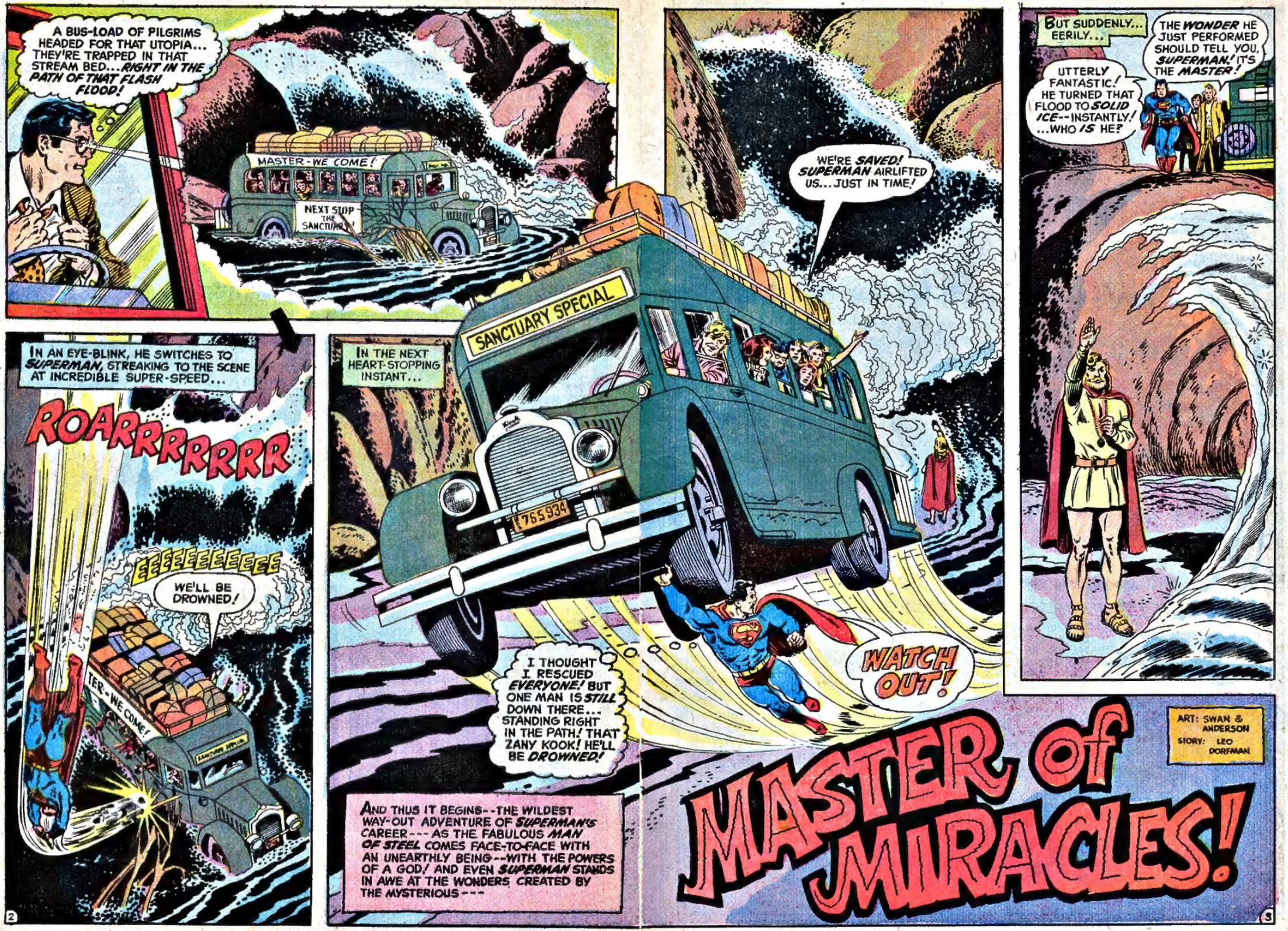
ART: SWAN & ANDERSON
STORY: LEO DORFMAN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MASTER of MIRACLES!
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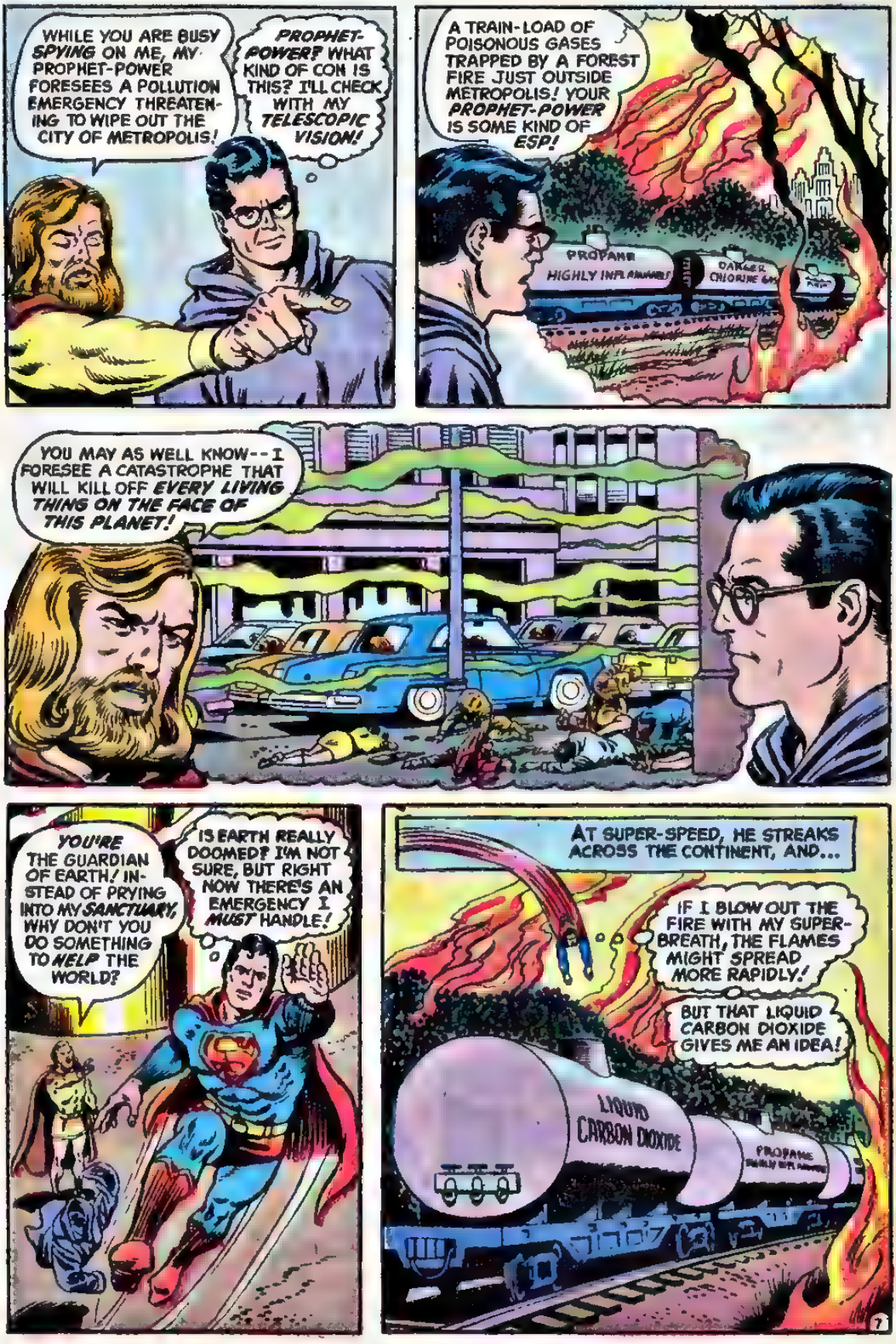
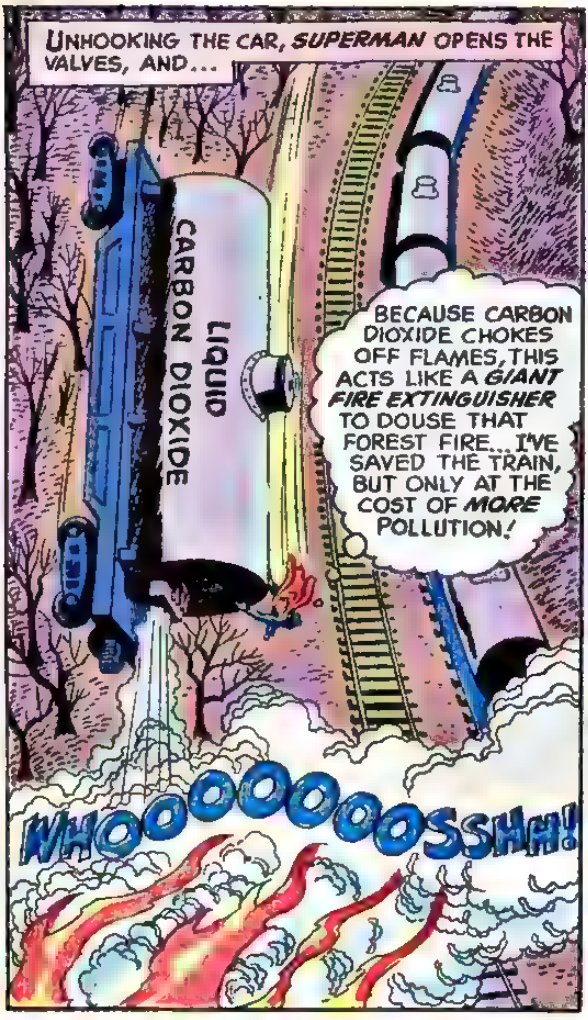
LOOKS LIKE I DIDN'T HAVE TO SAVE THOSE PILGRIMS. THEY WERE PERFECTLY SAFE IN YOUR HANDS! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM...?
OUT OF NOWHERE--AND EVERYWHERE! AND I HAVE POWERS FAR BEYOND YOUR OWN, SUPERMAN!
MASTER... WE HEARD VOICES... STRANGE VOICES SUMMONING US, SO WE CAME TO YOU!
DR. BLANCHARD OF CAL TECH! PROF. DORVAS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY LAB ...KLINE...VICTOR ...PAISLEY...I'M SO GLAD YOU ANSWERED MY CALL!
COME, YOU WHO HAVE LEFT THE TAINTED CITIES! LEAVE THAT POLLUTING VEHICLE BEHIND!... BEYOND THAT CLIFF LIES THE SANCTUARY--OUR HAVEN, WHERE I WILL TEACH YOU THE SECRET OF MY POWERS!
HE SOUNDS LIKE AN ANCIENT PROPHET!
HM! I WONDER WHAT GOES ON IN THAT UTOPIA?
PRESENTLY, AS HIS INCREDIBLE X-RAY VISION PENETRATES THE MOUNTAIN BARRIER...
SO THAT'S THE SANCTUARY!... THE MASTER HAS DRESSED HIS ECOLOGICAL PILGRIMS IN SACK CLOTH... AND THEY'RE SCOURING THIS MOUNTAIN AREA FOR CANS, BOTTLES AND OTHER TRASH LEFT BY CARELESS TOURISTS!

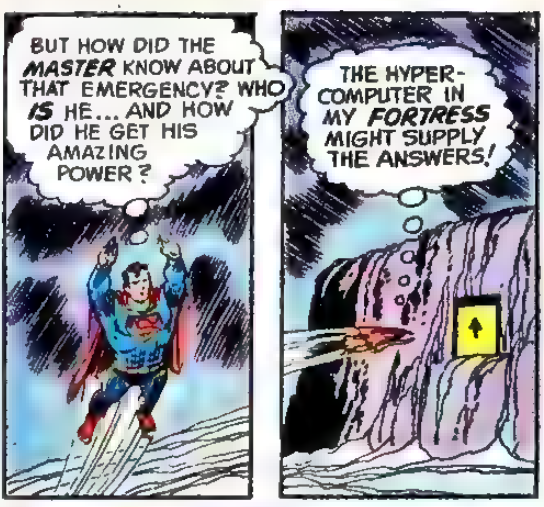
WHO IS THAT WEIRDO, THE MASTER? HE COULDN'T BE ATTRACTING ALL THOSE FAMOUS SCIENTISTS HERE JUST TO GATHER RUBBISH! IT MAKES NO SENSE!
MAYBE I SHOULD INVESTIGATE THIS SET-UP FROM THE INSIDE!
AND SO, DISGUISED AS A NEW RECRUIT, CLARK JOINS THE DISCIPLES...
YOU PICK UP THE EMPTY POP BOTTLES, BROTHER, AND I'LL COLLECT THE TIN CANS SCATTERED OVER THIS ABANDONED PICNIC SITE.
BUT WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THIS TRASH?
WE MUST NOT QUESTION THE WILL OF THE MASTER! SEE, HE WAITS FOR US! HE WILL TELL US WHAT TO DO!
THERE'S ENOUGH GLASS THERE TO START A BOTTLING WORKS! HOW IS HE GOING TO GET RID OF THAT MOUNTAIN OF BOTTLES?
WELL DONE, MY BRETHREN!... AND NOW, OUT OF THIS UGLY RUBBISH, DISCARDED BY THE DOOMED OUTER WORLD, I WILL CREATE A THING OF BEAUTY!
THAT'S TWICE HE MENTIONED SOME UNKNOWN DOOM FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD! IS SOME COSMIC CATASTROPHE ABOUT TO STRIKE?
BUT IN THAT NEXT INSTANT...
GASP
BEHOLD!
THE MASTER MELTED THE BOTTLES--WITH A MERE WAVE OF HIS HAND!
FIRST HE TURNED A RIVER TO ICE! AND NOW-- HE MADE A POOL OF MOLTEN GLASS! HIS POWERS ARE INCREDIBLE!
5

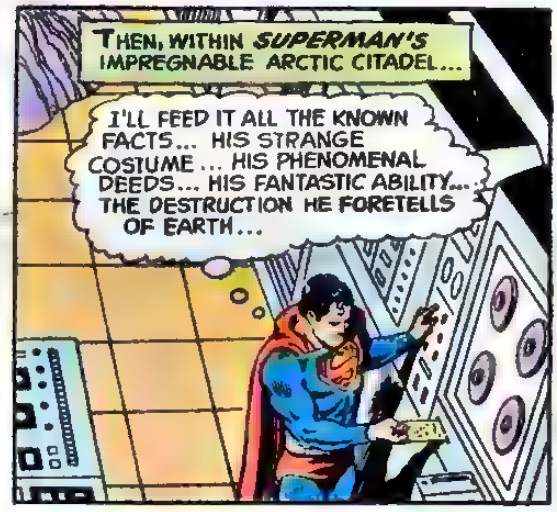
AND TO CLARK'S GROWING ASTONISHMENT, ANOTHER MIND-NUMBING FEAT...
SEE! THE MOLTEN GLASS IS RISING LIKE A HUGE BUBBLE ... FORMING INTO A GIANT DOME!
YES...A DOME TO SHELTER YOU FROM THE ELEMENTS, WHILE YOU REMAIN HERE AT THE SANCTUARY!
IS THERE NO LIMIT TO HIS POWERS?
THE MASTER HAS THE POWERS OF A GOD!
NO! DO NOT KNEEL BEFORE ME! MINE ARE NATURAL POWERS ... AND SOME DAY I MAY TEACH YOU TO ACHIEVE THEM, TOO!
IF HE DOES, HE CAN CREATE A WORLD OF SUPER-BEINGS!
LET ALL ENTER THE SHELTER WHERE WE CAN BREATHE CLEAN AIR... UNDEFILED BY THE POLLUTION OF THIS DOOMED WORLD!
THERE'S THAT WORD, DOOMED, AGAIN! IT RINGS LIKE A DEATH KNELL! DOES HE REALLY FORE-SEE DISASTER FOR THE EARTH?
BUT AS CLARK MOVES TO ENTER...
NO, KENT! THE DOME IS FORBIDDEN TO YOU!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
IS HE A MIND-READER, TOO?
I KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK! FOR INSTANCE, THIS BELT...
...IS REALLY YOUR HIGHLY COMPRESSIBLE COSTUME, SUPERMAN!
HE KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY, TOO!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
6

MOM--MY PARTY DRESS IS BEAUTIFUL - BUT MY HANDS... BLAH!
GOSH, MOM-- IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO BEFORE MY PARTY?
I THINK YOU SHOULD OPEN ONE OF YOUR PRESENTS EARLY.
"IT'S KENNER'S EASY CARE MANICURE SET!"
Easy Care MANICURE SET
LET ME SHOW YOU- IT WORKS BY BATTERIES - HAS POWER ATTACHMENTS THAT FIT INTO HANDLE!
SMOOTHS NAILS...
SANDING DISK SHAPES NAILS
...AND BUFFS THEM.
SHAPES CUTICLES...
SAFE, TOO - IT STOPS IF TOO MUCH PRESSURE IS APPLIED!
EVEN HAS SOMETHING I DON'T HAVE ON MINE... A NAIL DRYER!
AND THE TWO BOTTLES OF POLISH ARE NON-TOXIC. IT STAYS ON 'TIL YOU WASH IT OFF!
OH, MOM, I LOVE IT... AND I'LL NEVER BITE MY NAILS AGAIN!
JUST BEFORE SUSAN'S PARTY...
SEE, SUSAN-- YOUR DRESS IS BEAUTIFUL ...AND SO ARE YOUR NAILS!
THANKS TO YOU, MOM-- AND KENNER'S EASY CARE!
Kenner's Easy Care™ MANICURE SET
COMES COMPLETE WITH ACCESSORY HANDLE AND 5 POWER ATTACHMENTS... STYLISH CARRYING CASE HAS STORAGE COMPARTMENTS FOR EVERYTHING. ALSO INCLUDES 2 BOTTLES OF NON-TOXIC NAIL POLISH. USES TWO "D" BATTERIES (NOT INCLUDED).
OTHER KENNER SETS FOR "LITTLE MODERN MISS" ARE: EASY CURL QUICK HAIR SETTING KIT - AND EASY CURL WITH LIGHT-UP MIRROR VANITY.


WHILE YOU ARE BUSY SPYING ON ME, MY PROPHET-POWER FORESEES A POLLUTION EMERGENCY THREATENING TO WIPE OUT THE CITY OF METROPOLIS!
PROPHET-POWER? WHAT KIND OF CON IS THIS? I'LL CHECK WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION!
A TRAIN-LOAD OF POISONOUS GASES TRAPPED BY A FOREST FIRE JUST OUTSIDE METROPOLIS! YOUR PROPHET-POWER IS SOME KIND OF ESP!
PROPANE HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE
DANGER CHLORINE GAS
YOU MAY AS WELL KNOW--I FORESEE A CATASTROPHE THAT WILL KILL OFF EVERY LIVING THING ON THE FACE OF THIS PLANET!
YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF EARTH! INSTEAD OF PRYING INTO MY SANCTUARY, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE WORLD?
IS EARTH REALLY DOOMED? I'M NOT SURE, BUT RIGHT NOW THERE'S AN EMERGENCY I MUST HANDLE!
AT SUPER-SPEED, HE STREAKS ACROSS THE CONTINENT, AND...
IF I BLOW OUT THE FIRE WITH MY SUPER-BREATH, THE FLAMES MIGHT SPREAD MORE RAPIDLY!
BUT THAT LIQUID CARBON DIOXIDE GIVES ME AN IDEA!
LIQUID CARBON DIOXIDE
PROPANE

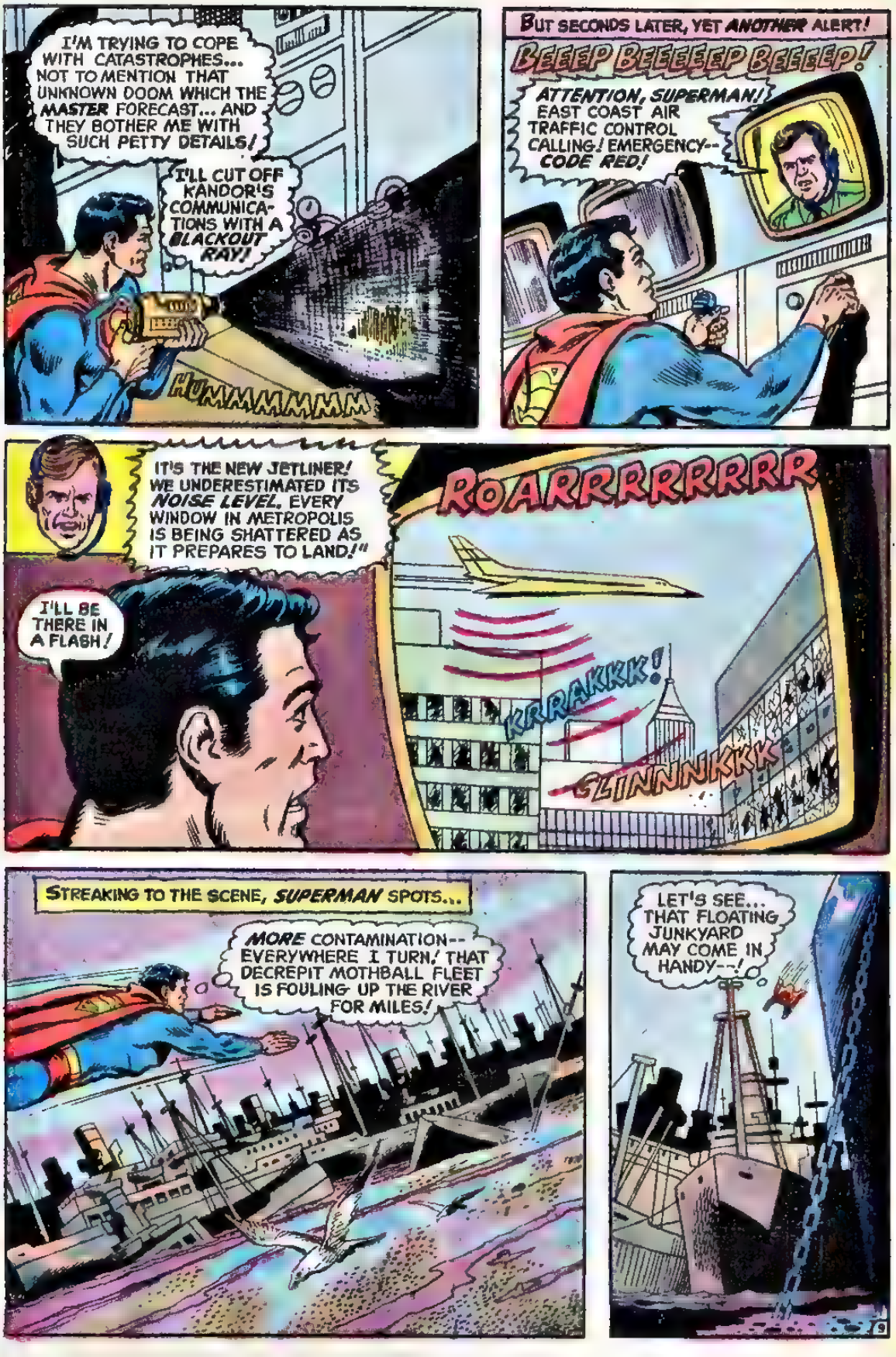

UNHOOKING THE CAR, SUPERMAN OPENS THE VALVES, AND...
CARBON DIOXIDE LIQUID
BECAUSE CARBON DIOXIDE CHOKES OFF FLAMES, THIS ACTS LIKE A GIANT FIRE EXTINGUISHER TO DOUSE THAT FOREST FIRE... I'VE SAVED THE TRAIN, BUT ONLY AT THE COST OF MORE POLLUTION!
WHOOOOOOOSSHH!

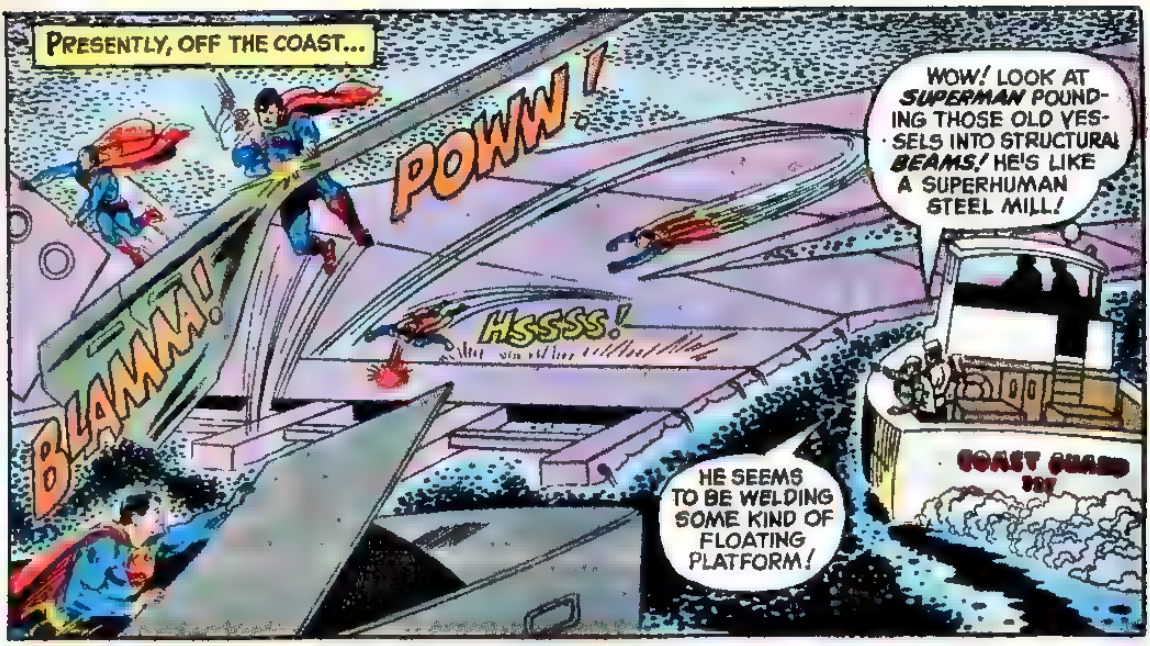

BUT HOW DID THE MASTER KNOW ABOUT THAT EMERGENCY? WHO IS HE... AND HOW DID HE GET HIS AMAZING POWER?
THE HYPER-COMPUTER IN MY FORTRESS MIGHT SUPPLY THE ANSWERS!

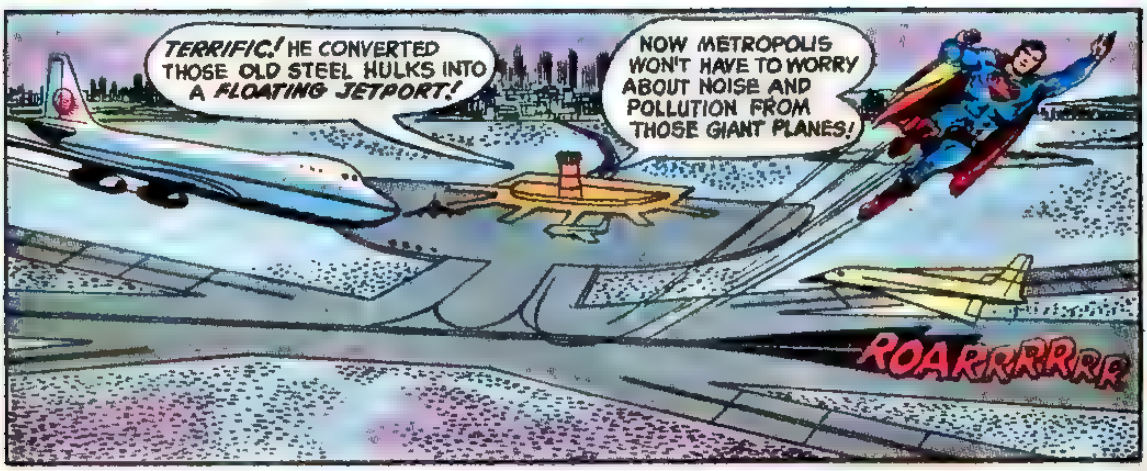

THEN, WITHIN SUPERMAN'S IMPREGNABLE ARCTIC CITADEL...
I'LL FEED IT ALL THE KNOWN FACTS... HIS STRANGE COSTUME... HIS PHENOMENAL DEEDS... HIS FANTASTIC ABILITY... THE DESTRUCTION HE FORETELLS OF EARTH...

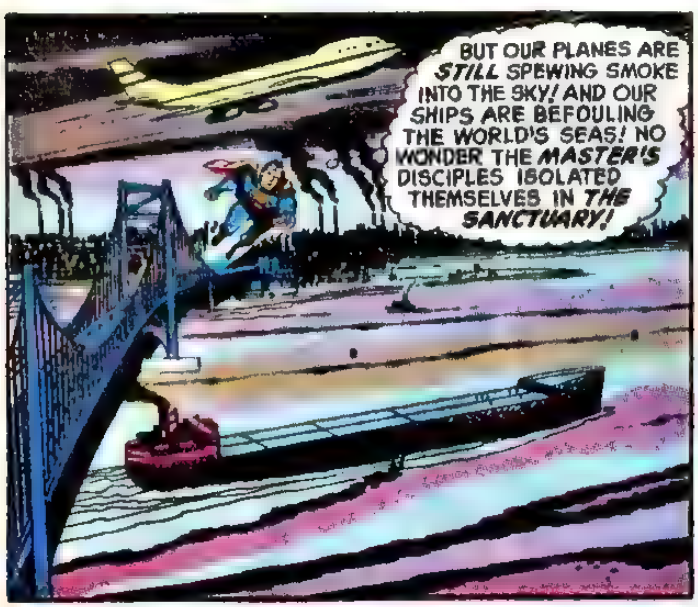
SUDDENLY, FROM AN INNER CHAMBER...
KRRRRAAAAANNNGGG!
THE ALARM FROM KANDOR* WHAT'S HAPPENED NOW?
*KANDOR -- A ONCE MIGHTY CITY OF KRYPTON, SUPERMAN'S NATIVE PLANET, NOW DESTROYED. KANDOR WAS SHRUNKEN AND PLACED IN A BOTTLE BY THE EVIL COMPUTER, BRAINIAC.

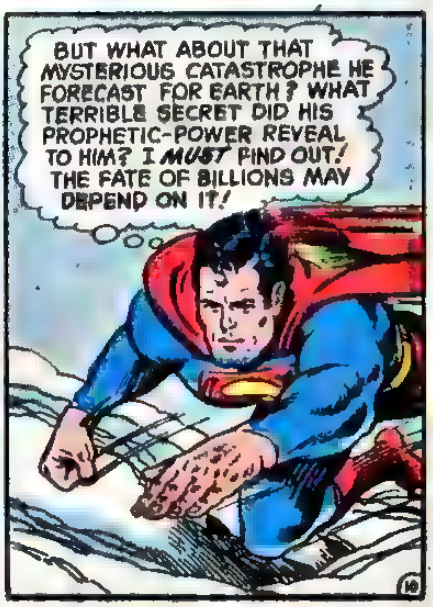
THEN, FROM THE MINI-WORLD INSIDE THE BOTTLE...
SUPERMAN! WE NEED YOUR HELP! SOMETHING'S BEEN WRONG WITH OUR CENSUS ANALYZER FOR WEEKS... EVER SINCE YOU VISITED THE BOTTLE! WE CAN'T CORRECT IT!
WHAAAAATT?
YOU BOTHERED ME ...INTERRUPTED MY VITAL TASKS FOR SUCH A NONSENSICAL REASON?

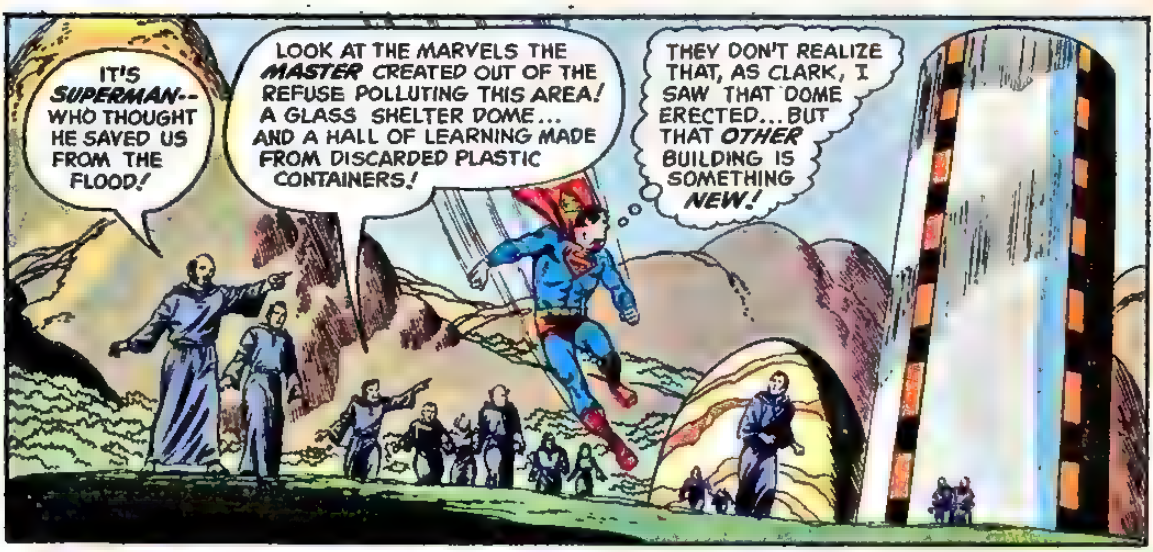

I'M TRYING TO COPE WITH CATASTROPHES... NOT TO MENTION THAT UNKNOWN DOOM WHICH THE MASTER FORECAST... AND THEY BOTHER ME WITH SUCH PETTY DETAILS!
I'LL CUT OFF KANDOR'S COMMUNICATIONS WITH A BLACKOUT RAY!
HUMMMMMMM
BUT SECONDS LATER, YET ANOTHER ALERT!
BEEEP BEEEEEP BEEEEP!
ATTENTION, SUPERMAN! EAST COAST AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CALLING! EMERGENCY-- CODE RED!
IT'S THE NEW JETLINER! WE UNDERESTIMATED ITS NOISE LEVEL. EVERY WINDOW IN METROPOLIS IS BEING SHATTERED AS IT PREPARES TO LAND!"
I'LL BE THERE IN A FLASH!
ROARRRRRRRR
KRRAKKK!
GLINNNKKK
STREAKING TO THE SCENE, SUPERMAN SPOTS...
MORE CONTAMINATION-- EVERYWHERE I TURN, THAT DECREPIT MOTHBALL FLEET IS FOULING UP THE RIVER FOR MILES!
LET'S SEE... THAT FLOATING JUNKYARD MAY COME IN HANDY--!
9

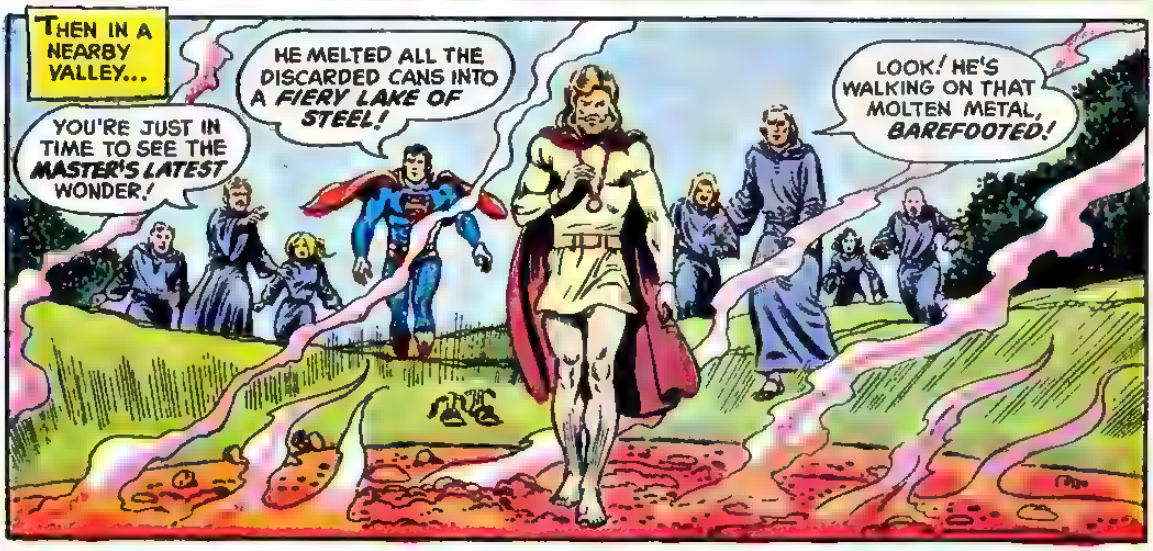

PRESENTLY, OFF THE COAST...
POWW!
BLAMM!
HSSSS!
WOW! LOOK AT SUPERMAN POUNDING THOSE OLD VESSELS INTO STRUCTURAL BEAMS! HE'S LIKE A SUPERHUMAN STEEL MILL!
HE SEEMS TO BE WELDING SOME KIND OF FLOATING PLATFORM!
COAST GUARD

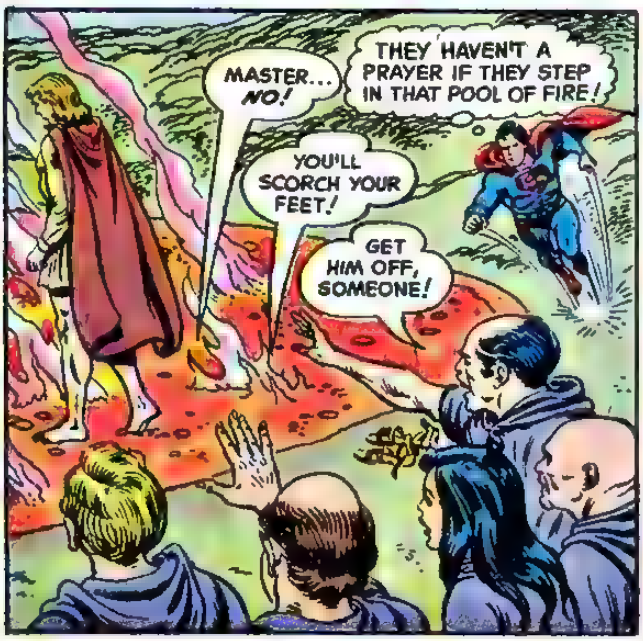

TERRIFIC! HE CONVERTED THOSE OLD STEEL HULKS INTO A FLOATING JETPORT!
NOW METROPOLIS WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT NOISE AND POLLUTION FROM THOSE GIANT PLANES!
ROARRRRRRR


BUT OUR PLANES ARE STILL SPEWING SMOKE INTO THE SKY! AND OUR SHIPS ARE BEFOULING THE WORLD'S SEAS! NO WONDER THE MASTER'S DISCIPLES ISOLATED THEMSELVES IN THE SANCTUARY!

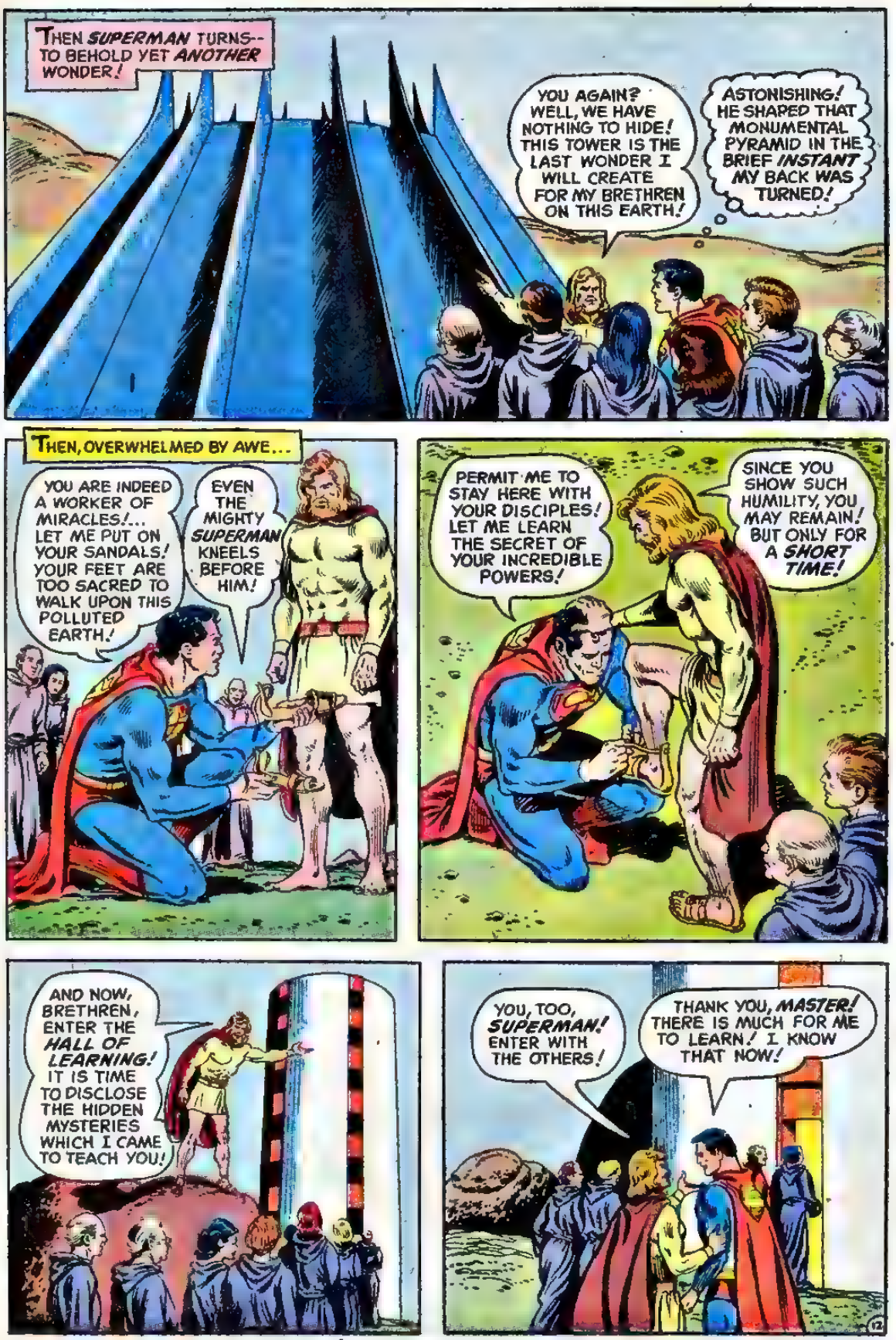

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT MYSTERIOUS CATASTROPHE HE FORECAST FOR EARTH? WHAT TERRIBLE SECRET DID HIS PROPHETIC-POWER REVEAL TO HIM? I MUST FIND OUT! THE FATE OF BILLIONS MAY DEPEND ON IT!
10

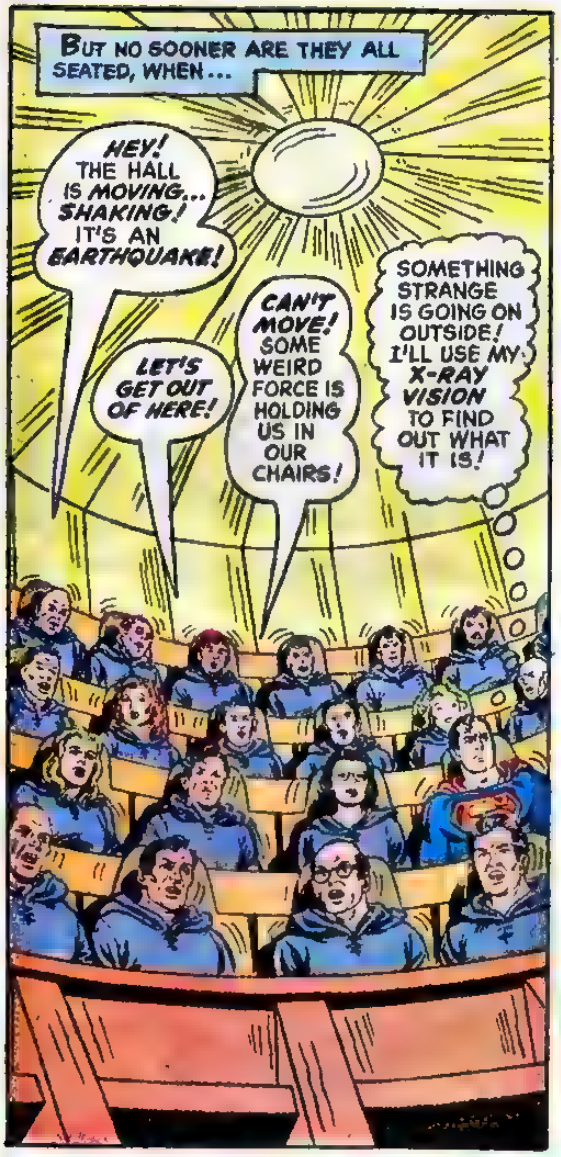

IT'S SUPERMAN-- WHO THOUGHT HE SAVED US FROM THE FLOOD!
LOOK AT THE MARVELS THE MASTER CREATED OUT OF THE REFUSE POLLUTING THIS AREA! A GLASS SHELTER DOME... AND A HALL OF LEARNING MADE FROM DISCARDED PLASTIC CONTAINERS!
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT, AS CLARK, I SAW THAT DOME ERECTED... BUT THAT OTHER BUILDING IS SOMETHING NEW!

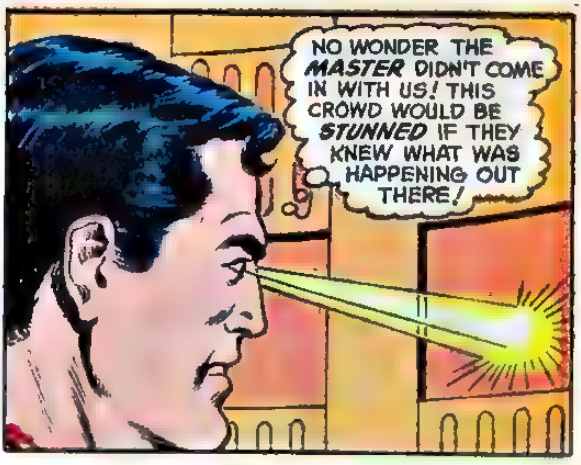

THEN IN A NEARBY VALLEY...
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE MASTER'S LATEST WONDER!
HE MELTED ALL THE DISCARDED CANS INTO A FIERY LAKE OF STEEL!
LOOK! HE'S WALKING ON THAT MOLTEN METAL, BAREFOOTED!

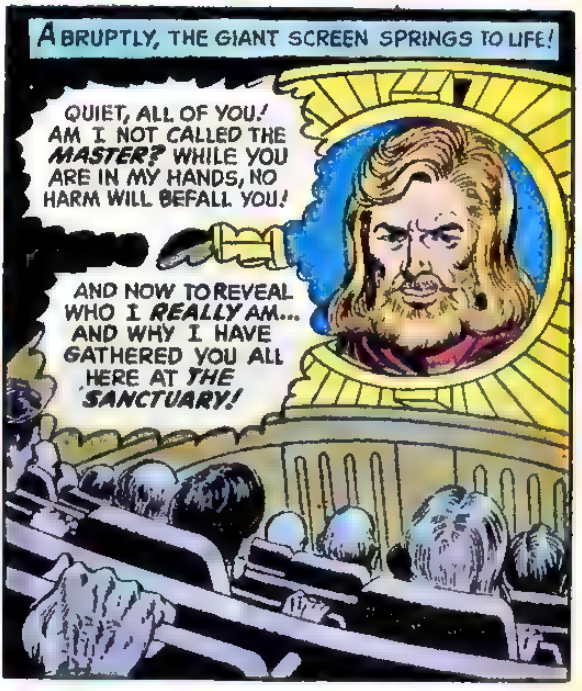

MASTER... NO!
THEY HAVEN'T A PRAYER IF THEY STEP IN THAT POOL OF FIRE!
YOU'LL SCORCH YOUR FEET!
GET HIM OFF, SOMEONE!

GET BACK, HEROES... OR YOU'LL BE BURNED TO A CRISP!
OOFF!
UNHH!

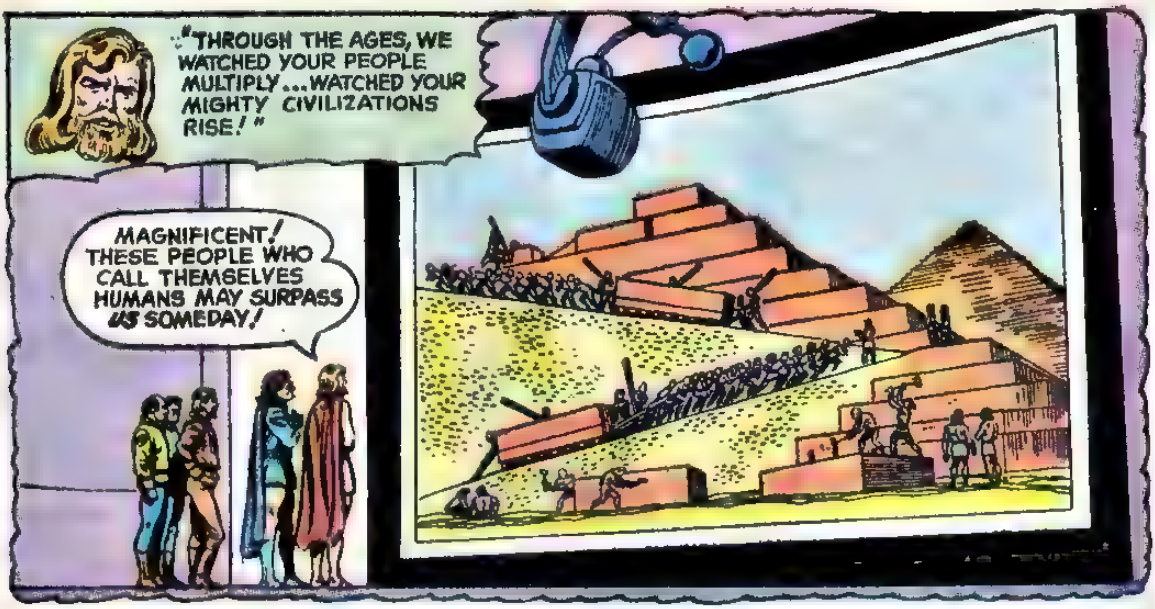

THEN SUPERMAN TURNS--TO BEHOLD YET ANOTHER WONDER!
YOU AGAIN? WELL, WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE! THIS TOWER IS THE LAST WONDER I WILL CREATE FOR MY BRETHREN ON THIS EARTH!
ASTONISHING! HE SHAPED THAT MONUMENTAL PYRAMID IN THE BRIEF INSTANT MY BACK WAS TURNED!
THEN, OVERWHELMED BY AWE...
YOU ARE INDEED A WORKER OF MIRACLES!... LET ME PUT ON YOUR SANDALS! YOUR FEET ARE TOO SACRED TO WALK UPON THIS POLLUTED EARTH!
EVEN THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN KNEELS BEFORE HIM!
PERMIT ME TO STAY HERE WITH YOUR DISCIPLES! LET ME LEARN THE SECRET OF YOUR INCREDIBLE POWERS!
SINCE YOU SHOW SUCH HUMILITY, YOU MAY REMAIN! BUT ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME!
AND NOW, BRETHREN, ENTER THE HALL OF LEARNING! IT IS TIME TO DISCLOSE THE HIDDEN MYSTERIES WHICH I CAME TO TEACH YOU!
YOU, TOO, SUPERMAN! ENTER WITH THE OTHERS!
THANK YOU, MASTER! THERE IS MUCH FOR ME TO LEARN! I KNOW THAT NOW!
12

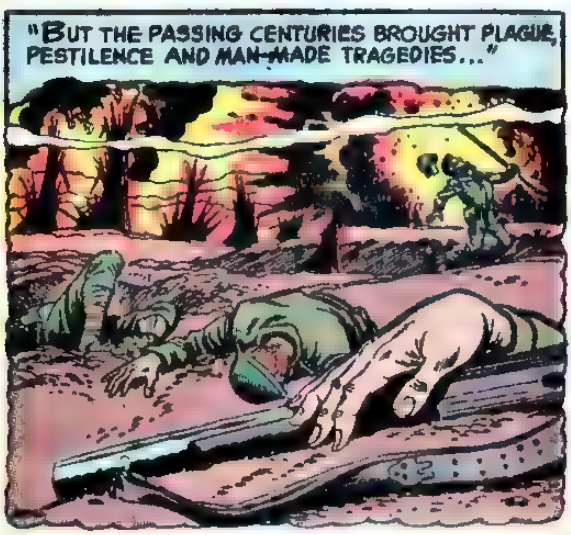

BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY ALL SEATED, WHEN...
HEY! THE HALL IS MOVING... SHAKING! IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
CAN'T MOVE! SOME WEIRD FORCE IS HOLDING US IN OUR CHAIRS!
SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON OUTSIDE! I'LL USE MY X-RAY VISION TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!


NO WONDER THE MASTER DIDN'T COME IN WITH US! THIS CROWD WOULD BE STUNNED IF THEY KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING OUT THERE!

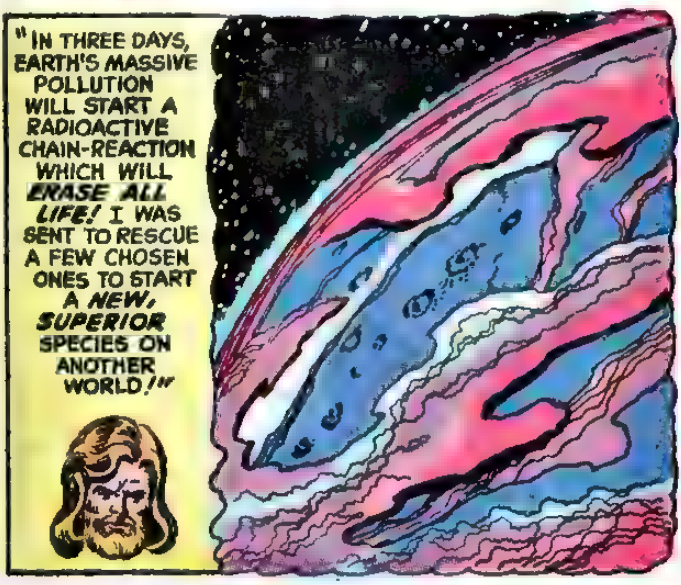

ABRUPTLY, THE GIANT SCREEN SPRINGS TO LIFE!
QUIET, ALL OF YOU! AM I NOT CALLED THE MASTER? WHILE YOU ARE IN MY HANDS, NO HARM WILL BEFALL YOU!
AND NOW TO REVEAL WHO I REALLY AM... AND WHY I HAVE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE AT THE SANCTUARY!

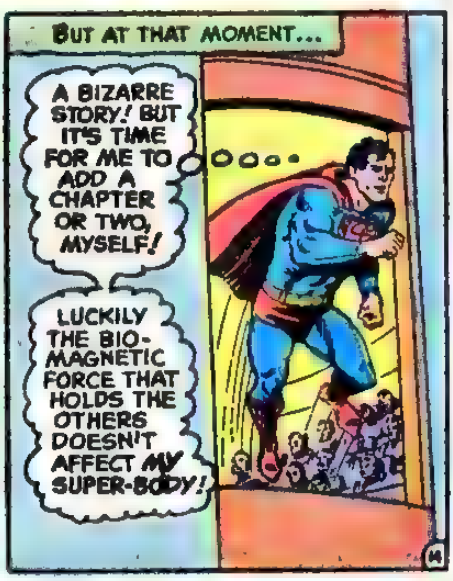
"AEONS AGO, MY PEOPLE CAME HERE FROM A FAR WORLD TO SETTLE YOUR ANCESTORS ON EARTH... THE SPECIES NOW CALLED HOMO SAPIENS!"
THESE PRIMITIVES ARE THE LAST SURVIVORS OF A DYING PLANET! PERHAPS THEY WILL FIND A NEW LIFE HERE!
IN TIME, THEY MAY SUPPLANT THOSE APE-MEN! IF THEY SURVIVE THEY MAY BECOME A MIGHTY RACE!

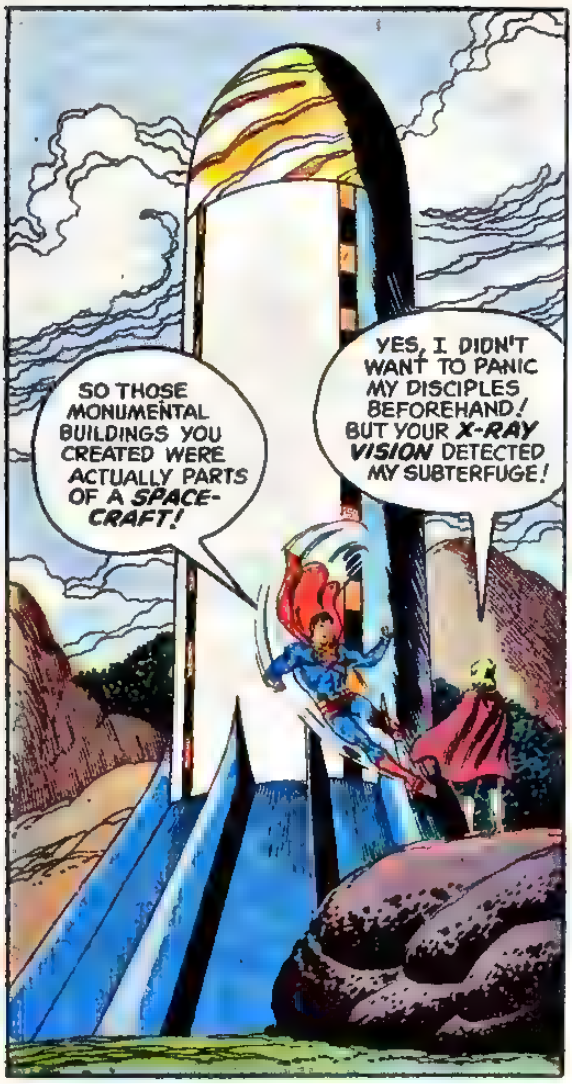

"THROUGH THE AGES, WE WATCHED YOUR PEOPLE MULTIPLY...WATCHED YOUR MIGHTY CIVILIZATIONS RISE!"
MAGNIFICENT! THESE PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES HUMANS MAY SURPASS US SOMEDAY!

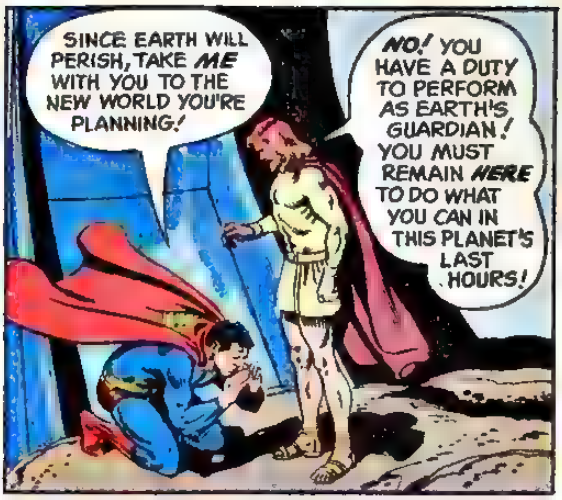

"BUT THE PASSING CENTURIES BROUGHT PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND MAN-MADE TRAGEDIES..."

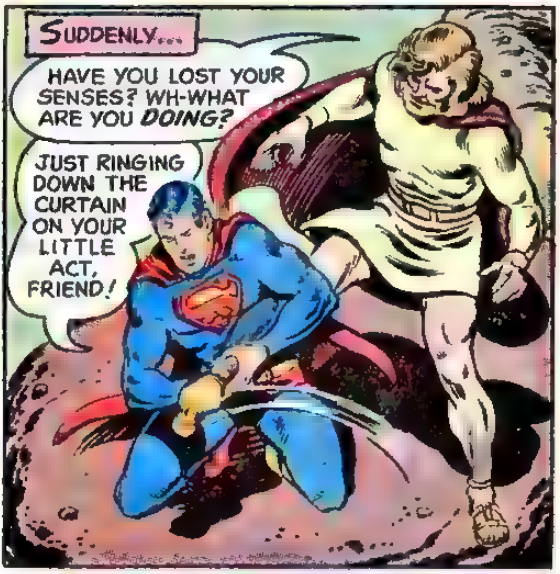
"MY PEOPLE WATCHED SORROWFULLY AS YOUR EARTH SLIPPED EVER CLOSER TO DISASTER."
AT PEACE OR AT WAR, THEY DEFILE THE WORLD WE GAVE THEM!
OUR COMPUT-ANALYZERS SHOW THAT THE PLANET EARTH IS ABOUT TO CHOKE IN ITS OWN POLLUTION. ONCE MORE WE MUST SAVE SOME REMNANTS OF MANKIND!


"IN THREE DAYS, EARTH'S MASSIVE POLLUTION WILL START A RADIOACTIVE CHAIN-REACTION WHICH WILL ERASE ALL LIFE! I WAS SENT TO RESCUE A FEW CHOSEN ONES TO START A NEW, SUPERIOR SPECIES ON ANOTHER WORLD!"


BUT AT THAT MOMENT...
A BIZARRE STORY! BUT IT'S TIME FOR ME TO ADD A CHAPTER OR TWO, MYSELF!
LUCKILY THE BIO-MAGNETIC FORCE THAT HOLDS THE OTHERS DOESN'T AFFECT MY SUPER-BODY!


SO THOSE MONUMENTAL BUILDINGS YOU CREATED WERE ACTUALLY PARTS OF A SPACE-CRAFT!
YES, I DIDN'T WANT TO PANIC MY DISCIPLES BEFOREHAND! BUT YOUR X-RAY VISION DETECTED MY SUBTERFUGE!


SINCE EARTH WILL PERISH, TAKE ME WITH YOU TO THE NEW WORLD YOU'RE PLANNING!
NO! YOU HAVE A DUTY TO PERFORM AS EARTH'S GUARDIAN! YOU MUST REMAIN HERE TO DO WHAT YOU CAN IN THIS PLANET'S LAST HOURS!


SUDDENLY...
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES? WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST RINGING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON YOUR LITTLE ACT, FRIEND!

AHA! SUSPICION CONFIRMED... JUST AS I THOUGHT WHEN I KNEELED BEFORE YOU LAST! THESE SANDALS ARE MADE OF SERVRON... A KANDORIAN PLASTIC! YOU'RE NOT FROM THE PLANET ALVAR... BUT A PHONY FROM THE MINI-WORLD OF KANDOR!

IT'S TRUE! I AM VAN-TARR, A KANDORIAN SCIENTIST! FOR YEARS, I WATCHED YOU ON OUR MONITORS!
HOW I ENVY HIM! IF I COULD GET OUT OF THIS BOTTLE WORLD, I, TOO, COULD HAVE POWERS LIKE HIS!

"ONE DAY AS YOU ENDED A VISIT TO KANDOR AND EXITED THROUGH YOUR MICROWAVE TUNNEL, I SLIPPED OUT AFTER YOU!"
I DAMAGED THE CENSUS-ANALYZER WHICH KEEPS TRACK OF ALL INHABITANTS! NO ONE MUST KNOW I ESCAPED TO THE OUTER WORLD... NOT EVEN SUPERMAN!
"UNDETECTED, I EMERGED INTO YOUR FORTRESS, NORMAL IN SIZE!"
SINCE ALL KANDORIANS ARE OF KRYPTONIAN BLOOD, LIKE SUPERMAN, I AM SUPER IN THIS OUTER WORLD ... NOW FOR THE REST OF MY PLAN ... TO BECOME A SUPERMAN ON A PLANET OF MY VERY OWN!
SO YOU DAMAGED THAT KANDORIAN CENSUS-ANALYZER, DESIGNED TO KEEP ANYONE FROM FLEEING FROM THE BOTTLE!
I KNOW WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU! THE POWERS WE GET OUT HERE ARE DANGEROUS FOR UNTRAINED AMATEURS LIKE ME! BUT AS THE MASTER, I USED THEM TO OUTFOX YOU!
YOUR 'MIRACLES' WERE ACTUALLY SUPER-DEEDS!
"YOUR FREEZE-BREATH FROZE THAT FLOOD!"
"YOUR HEAT VISION MELTED THOSE BOTTLES AND CANS!"
"WHEN YOUR TELESCOPIC VISION SPOTTED AN EMERGENCY, YOU CALLED IT, PROPHET-POWER"!
THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING! THE POLARIZING BEADS I INVENTED ALLOWED ME TO USE MY POWERS BY MENTAL REMOTE-CONTROL! I CREATED THE PARTS FOR MY SPACE-CRAFT BY SHEER SUPER-WILL-POWER!
CONTINUED ON 2 HIP PAGE FOLLOWING.
16

SMOKE CLOUD

Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.

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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

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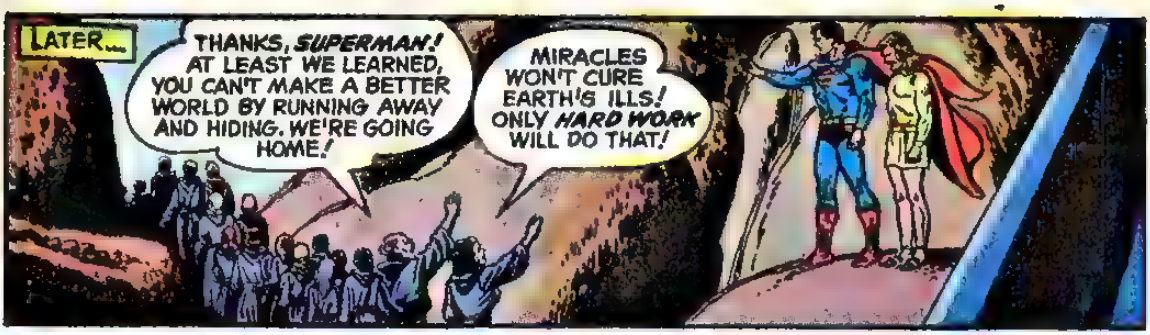
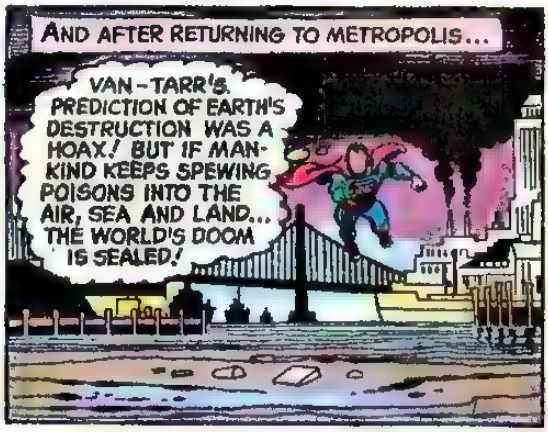
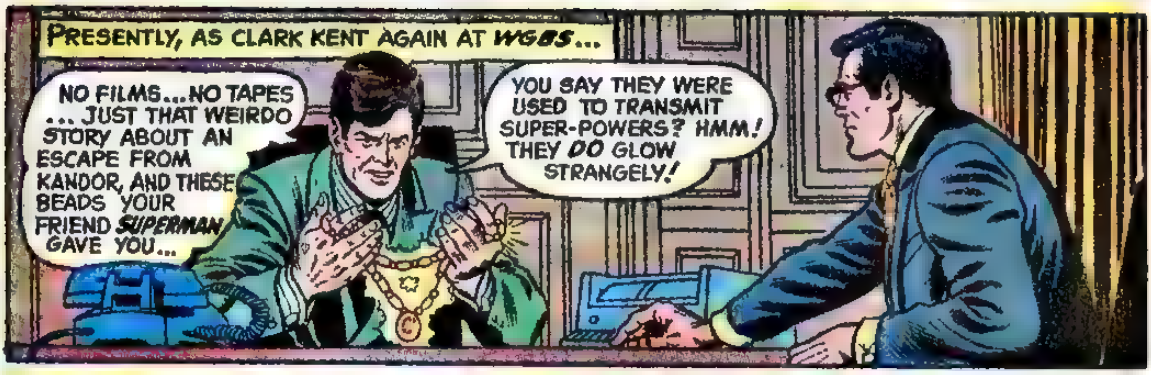
AND NOW TO TAKE MY PEOPLE TO ANOTHER WORLD, A NEW "EARTH" WHERE I WILL BE THE "NEW SUPERMAN."
MY POLARIZING BEADS WILL TRANSMIT MY SUPER-ENERGY TO THE CRAFT FOR THE JOURNEY!
BUT, SUDDENLY...
THE SPACE-CRAFT --FALLING!
ENERGY OVERLOAD FEEDBACK SHORTING THE CIRCUITS... DRAINING MY POWERS! SHOULD HAVE TESTED MY POLARIZING BEADS MORE!
POKUM PFFLL!
MEANWHILE...
THE MASTER WAS A PHONY! HE WAS KIDNAPPING US!
WE'RE GOING TO CRASH! THAT SUPER-MANIAC WILL KILL US ALL!
M-MY POWERS ... GONE! SAVE MY PEOPLE, SUPERMAN!
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU! THEY'RE SAFE IN MY HANDS!
IT'S ALL OVER! YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!
RRRRiiPPPP!
WE HEARD EVERYTHING, SUPERMAN! THANK HEAVENS YOU RESCUED US FROM THAT POWER-HUNGRY IDIOT!
17

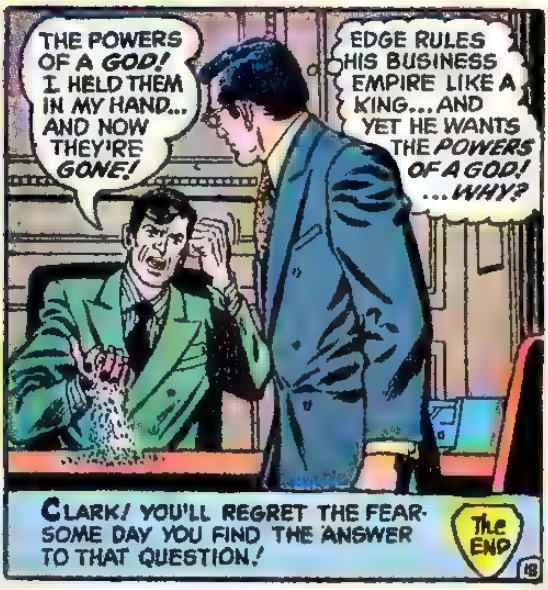

LATER...
THANKS, SUPERMAN! AT LEAST WE LEARNED, YOU CAN'T MAKE A BETTER WORLD BY RUNNING AWAY AND HIDING. WE'RE GOING HOME!
MIRACLES WON'T CURE EARTH'S ILLS! ONLY HARD WORK WILL DO THAT!

AND AS THE MAN OF STEEL FLIES TOWARD HIS ARCTIC FORTRESS...
TAKE ME BACK TO KANDOR! I TRIED TO PLAY GOD... AND LOST MY POWERS FOREVER. I WASN'T WORTHY TO BE SUPER!
I LEARNED LONG AGO, MY SUPER-POWERS MUST BE USED ONLY FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS!

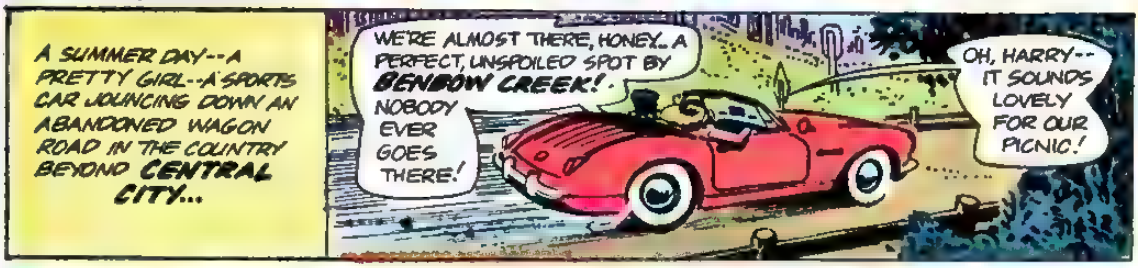

AND AFTER RETURNING TO METROPOLIS...
VAN-TARR'S PREDICTION OF EARTH'S DESTRUCTION WAS A HOAX! BUT IF MANKIND KEEPS SPEWING POISONS INTO THE AIR, SEA AND LAND... THE WORLD'S DOOM IS SEALED!

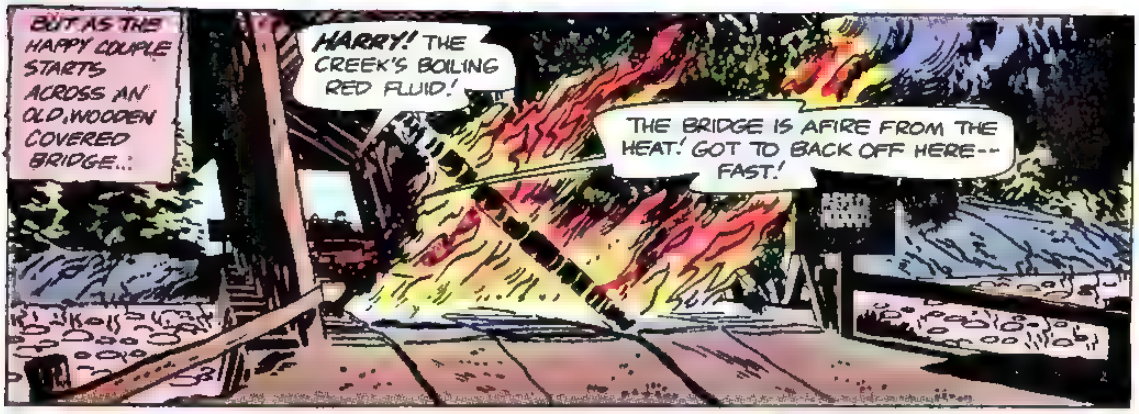

PRESENTLY, AS CLARK KENT AGAIN AT WGBS...
NO FILMS...NO TAPES ... JUST THAT WEIRDO STORY ABOUT AN ESCAPE FROM KANDOR, AND THESE BEADS YOUR FRIEND SUPERMAN GAVE YOU...
YOU SAY THEY WERE USED TO TRANSMIT SUPER-POWERS? HMM! THEY DO GLOW STRANGELY!

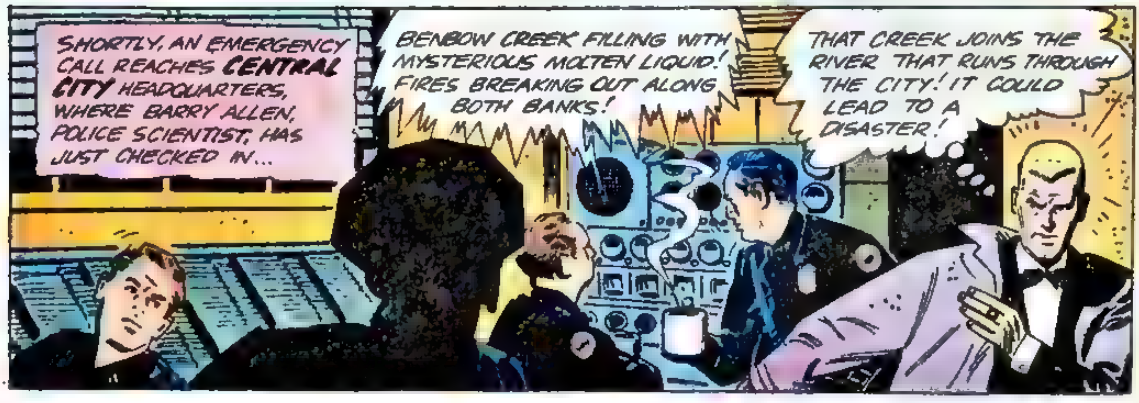
THEY'RE EXPLODING... TURNING TO DUST!
NATURALLY! I BOOBY-TRAPPED THE MINI-CIRCUITS TO DISSOLVE THE POLARIZING BEADS IF ANYONE OTHER THAN A SUPER-BEING TOUCHED THEM!
PUFF
ZZZZAAPP
SSSS

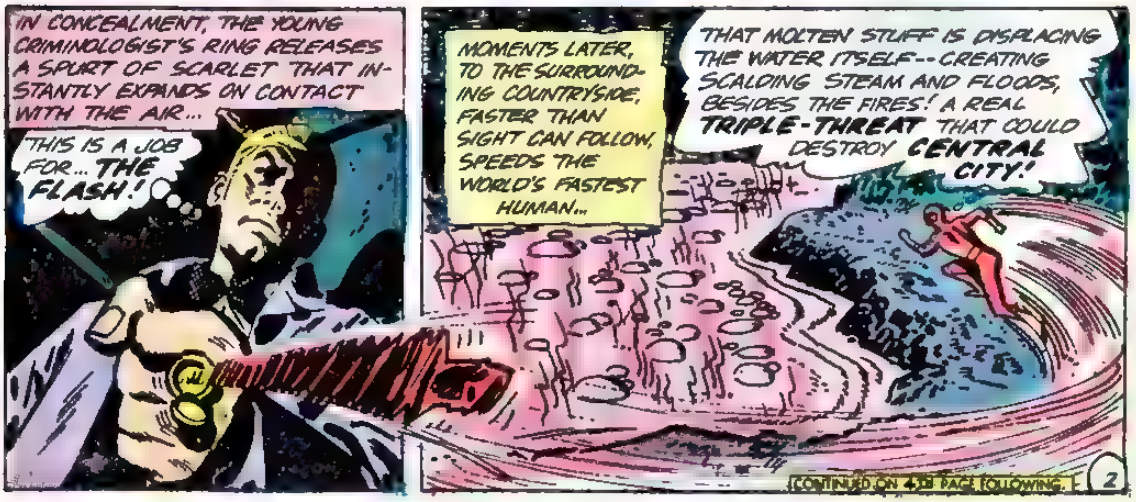

THE POWERS OF A GOD! I HELD THEM IN MY HAND... AND NOW THEY'RE GONE!
EDGE RULES HIS BUSINESS EMPIRE LIKE A KING... AND YET HE WANTS THE POWERS OF A GOD! ...WHY?
CLARK! YOU'LL REGRET THE FEARSOME DAY YOU FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION!
The END

The ATOM AND The FLASH
REVISITED IN ONE OF THEIR GREATEST ADVENTURES!
IT WAS NO BIGGER THAN A BASEBALL WHEN IT ARRIVED--BUT IT POSED A THREAT TO EARTH SO ENORMOUS THAT IT STAGGERED THE IMAGINATION! THAT WAS WHEN A TRAIL OF MYSTERIOUS MENACES CALLED FORTH THE FLASH AND THE ATOM TO BLEND THEIR UNIQUE TALENTS IN A LAST DITCH EFFORT TO DEFEAT..
the CHALLENGE of the EXPANDING WORLD
THIS WORLD HAS SAPPED THE FLASH OF HIS SUPER-SPEED! MY ONLY HOPE OF SAVING HIM IS TO TAKE ON THAT WHOLE ROCKET FLEET!
WAAAZZZAAPPPP
ZZZZAAPPPP
ZZZZAAPPP
STORY: BOB HANEY
ART: ALEXANDER TOTH









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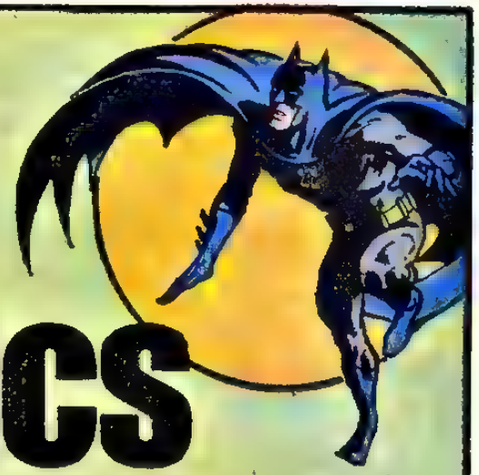

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IMMEDIATELY, THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER STREAKS INTO HIGH GEAR...

ONE CHANCE TO HALT THIS MENACE...

SSSSSSSSS

STAYING JUST ABOVE THE HISSING FLOOD, BY MEANS OF HIS HYPER-VELOCITY, THE FLASH RACES UP THE ONCE PEACEFUL STREAM...

LUCKILY, THE AURA THAT PROTECTS ME FROM SUPER-SPEED FRICTION ALSO KEEPS THIS HOT STUFF FROM BOILING ME!

FASTER, EVER FASTER GOES THE MONARCH OF MOTION, UNTIL...

THE WIND I CREATED COOLED THAT MOLTEN FLOW INTO A SOLID MASS-- AND PUT OUT THOSE FIRES BESIDES!

KRAKKRAKAAAAK-KRK-K-K...

NOT LONG AFTER, AS BARRY ALLEN INVESTIGATES IN HIS LAB...

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF A PIECE OF THAT COOLED MATTER PROVES IT'S LIKE NOTHING ELSE ON EARTH! BUT HOW COULD THAT BE?

BARRY IS INTERRUPTED BY A PHONE CALL AND THE ARRIVAL OF HIS FIANCEE, IRIS WEST...

IRIS! I'M SORRY I'VE GOT TO BREAK OUR DATE! THAT WAS POLICE HQ... TROUBLE AT TRANS-COUNTY CROSS-ROADS!

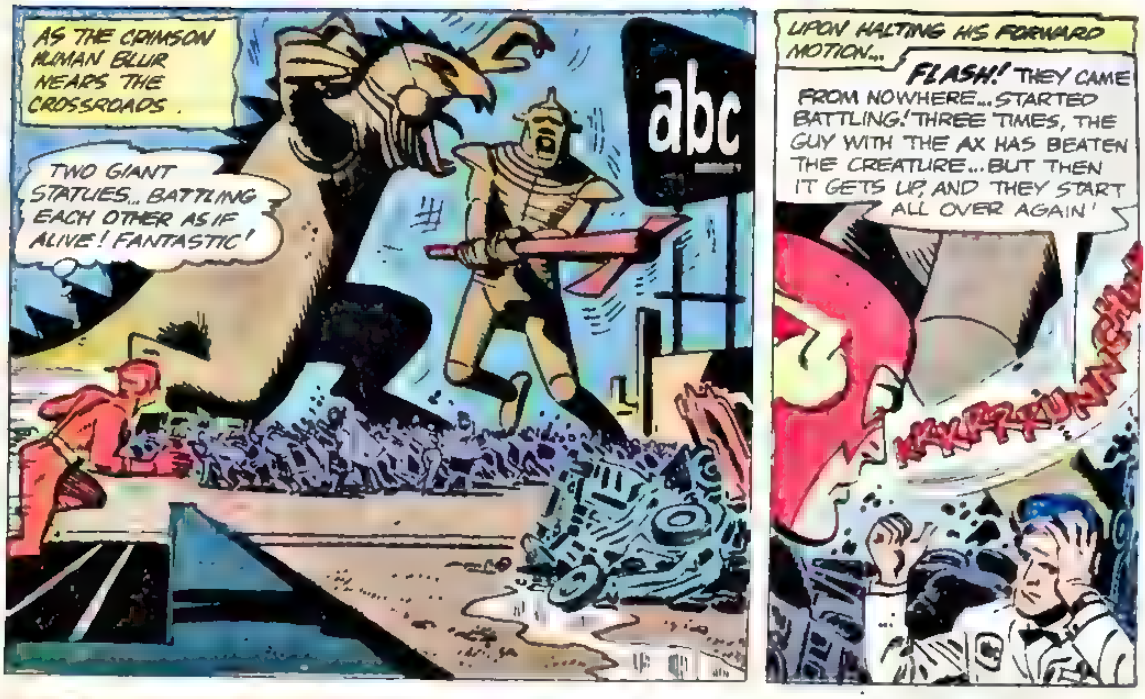
OH, NO! WHY'D I EVER FALL FOR A BUSY POLICE SCIENTIST? IF I WERE ENGAGED TO THE FLASH, HE'D HAVE TIME FOR ME!

MOMENTS LATER...

IRIS IS HOPPING MAD-- BUT SHE'D BE EVEN MADDER IF SHE KNEW SHE REALLY IS ENGAGED TO THE FLASH!

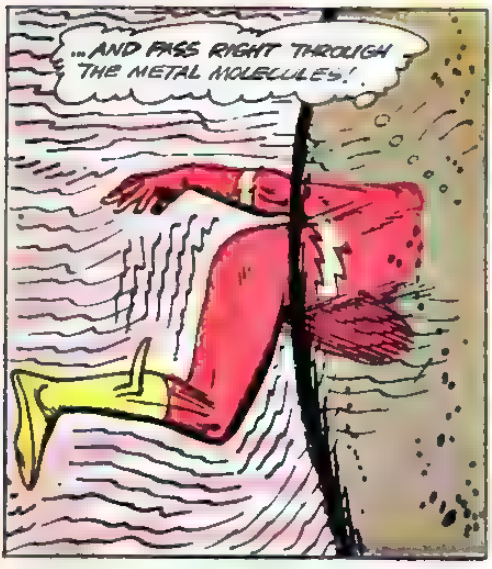
abc

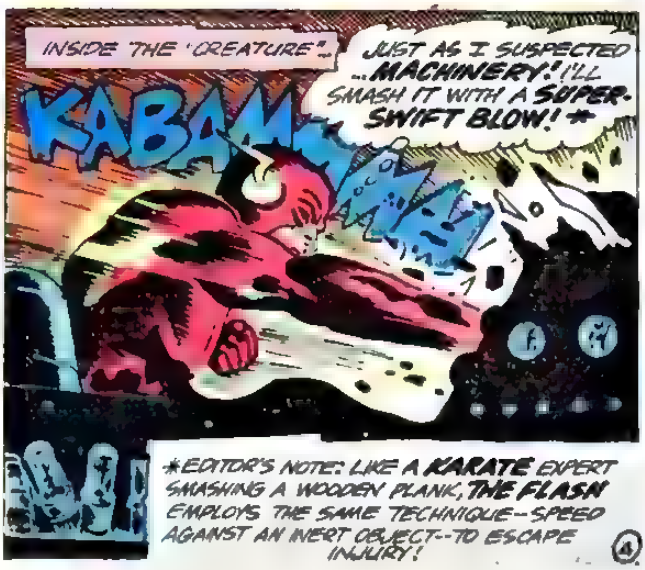
trans-county SHOPPING CENTER JUST OPENED


AS THE CRIMSON HUMAN BLUR NEARS THE CROSSROADS.
TWO GIANT STATUES.. BATTLING EACH OTHER AS IF ALIVE! FANTASTIC!
abc

UPON HALTING HIS FORWARD MOTION...
FLASH! THEY CAME FROM NOWHERE... STARTED BATTLING! THREE TIMES, THE GUY WITH THE AX HAS BEATEN THE CREATURE... BUT THEN IT GETS UP, AND THEY START ALL OVER AGAIN!
KAVRRKUNNGH!

ERRAAAGHHHH
THEY'RE WRECKING THE WHOLE CENTER! GOT TO VIBRATE MY BODY AT SUPER-SPEED..


...AND PASS RIGHT THROUGH THE METAL MOLECULES!


INSIDE THE 'CREATURE'..
JUST AS I SUSPECTED ...MACHINERY! I'LL SMASH IT WITH A SUPER-SWIFT BLOW! *
KABAM
*EDITOR'S NOTE: LIKE A KARATE EXPERT SMASHING A WOODEN PLANK, THE FLASH EMPLOYS THE SAME TECHNIQUE--SPEED AGAINST AN INERT OBJECT--TO ESCAPE INJURY!

AFTER REPEATING THE SAME "TREATMENT" ON THE OTHER RAMPAGING STATUE...

THE FLASH KAYOED THOSE MENACES! THEY WERE MECHANICAL GADGETS, AFTER ALL!

YES... BUT DANGEROUS ALL THE SAME! AND LIKE THAT RED TIDE--WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

BUT THE FLASH HASN'T TIME TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, AS A SERIES OF EMERGENCIES POP UP EVERYWHERE...KEEPING HIM BUSY ON A FANTASTIC SUPER-FAST ROUND OF BATTLES!

GIANT PLANT DESTROYING BAY BRIDGE!

ELEVATED ROADWAY SMOTHERING CITY PARK!

LOW ALTITUDE GAS LAYER MENACING JET TRAFFIC!

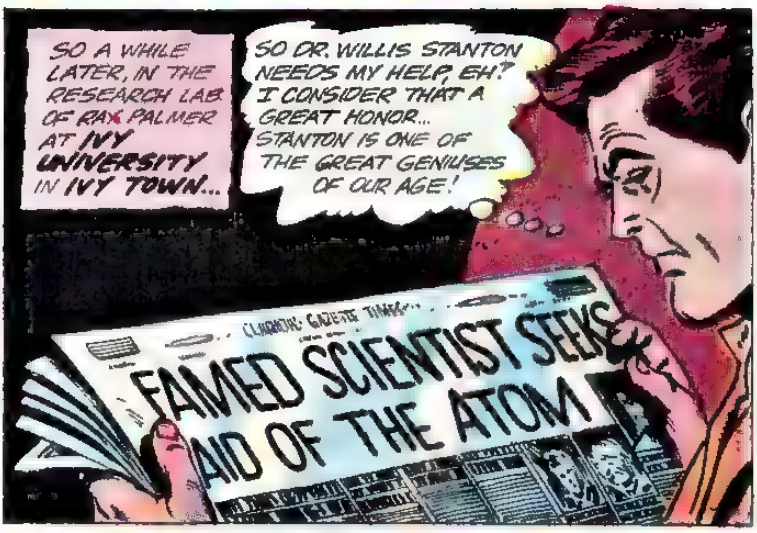
SHORTLY...

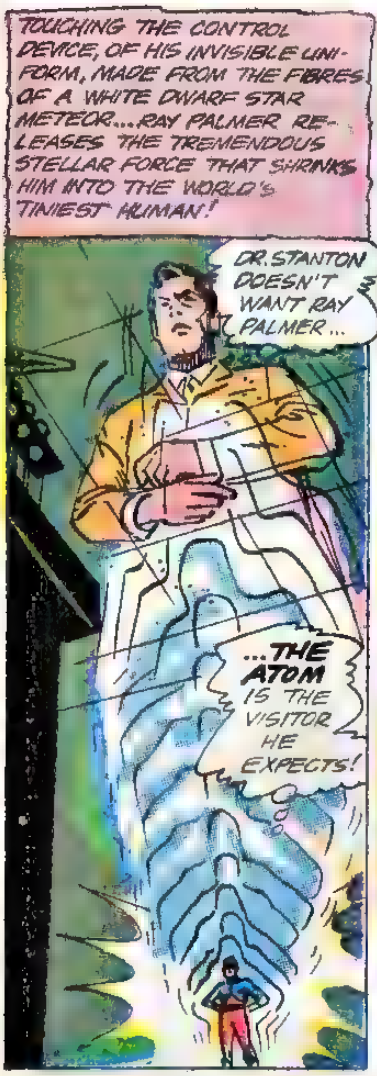
I USED MY SUPER-SPEED TO UNCURL THAT VINE AND WITHER IT...I SET UP ULTRASONIC VIBRATIONS TO DISMANTLE THAT ROADWAY... AND I DISPELLED THAT GAS LAYER BY DRAWING IT OFF IN A VACUUM LEFT BY SUPER-VELOCITY! BUT I'M EXHAUSTED.. IF ANOTHER EMERGENCY COMES UP--I'M NOT SURE I CAN ANSWER IT!

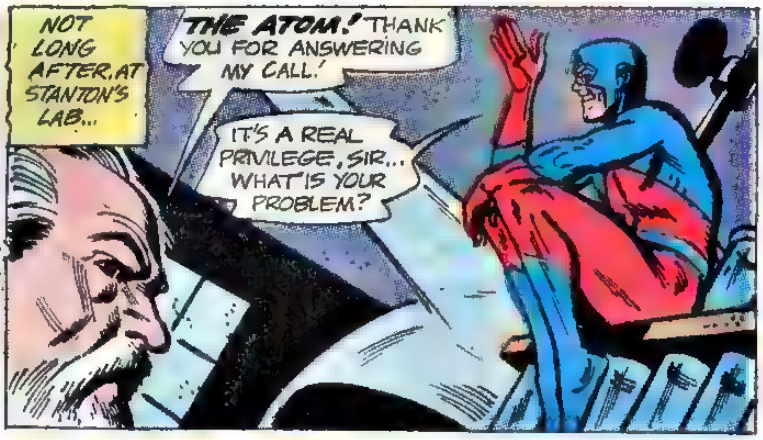
MEANTIME, IN THE LAB COMPLEX OF DR. WILLIS STANTON, FAMED SCIENTIFIC GENIUS...

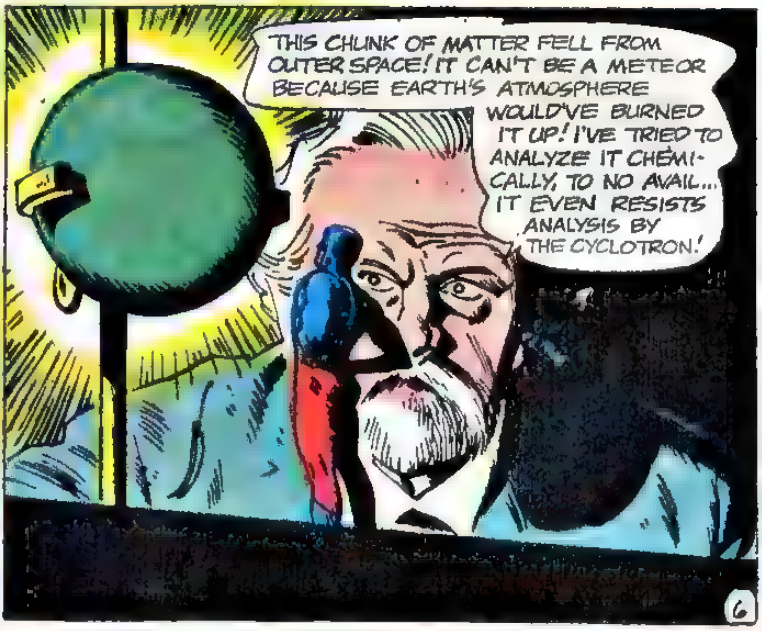
THE FIRST MIGRATIONS FAILED... I MUST TRY THE ALPHA GAMBIT! BUT FOR THAT I'D NEED AN ATOM... WITH ITS OWN INTELLIGENCE-- AND NO SUCH THING EXISTS!

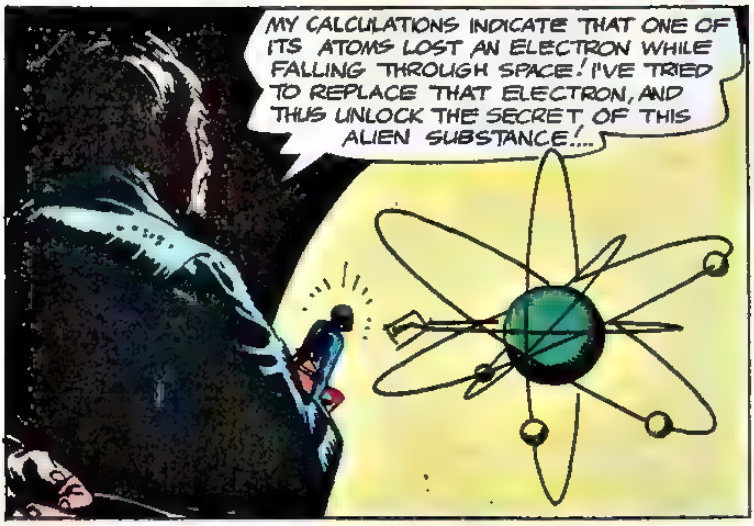
WAIT! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? AN INTELLIGENT ATOM DOES EXIST! IF I CAN GET HIM TO COOPERATE, OPERATION NEW WORLD WILL BE A SUCCESS!

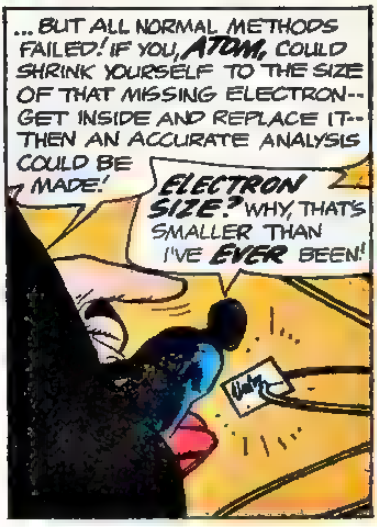

SO A WHILE LATER, IN THE RESEARCH LAB OF RAY PALMER AT IVY UNIVERSITY IN IVY TOWN...
SO DR. WILLIS STANTON NEEDS MY HELP, EH? I CONSIDER THAT A GREAT HONOR... STANTON IS ONE OF THE GREAT GENIUSES OF OUR AGE!
FAMED SCIENTIST SEEKS AID OF THE ATOM

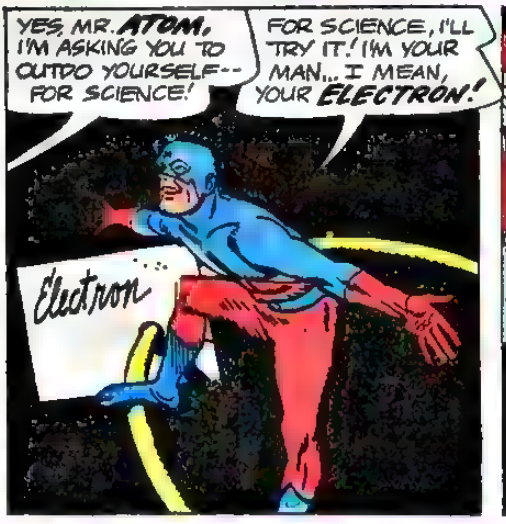

TOUCHING THE CONTROL DEVICE, OF HIS INVISIBLE UNIFORM, MADE FROM THE FIBRES OF A WHITE DWARF STAR METEOR... RAY PALMER RELEASES THE TREMENDOUS STELLAR FORCE THAT SHRINKS HIM INTO THE WORLD'S TINIEST HUMAN!
DR. STANTON DOESN'T WANT RAY PALMER...
...THE ATOM IS THE VISITOR HE EXPECTS!

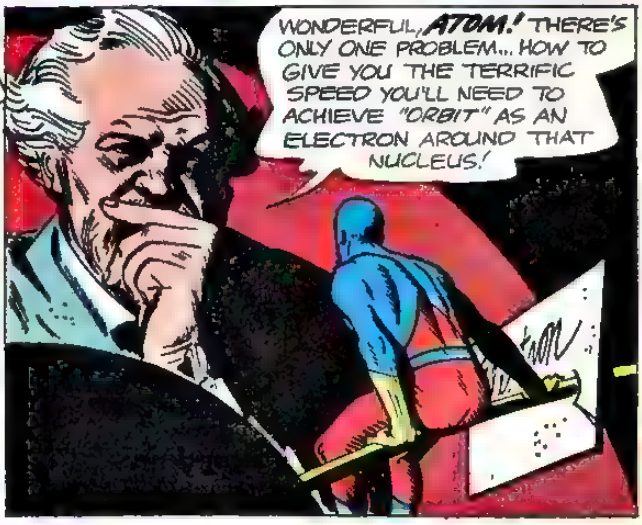

NOT LONG AFTER, AT STANTON'S LAB...
THE ATOM! THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING MY CALL.
IT'S A REAL PRIVILEGE, SIR... WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

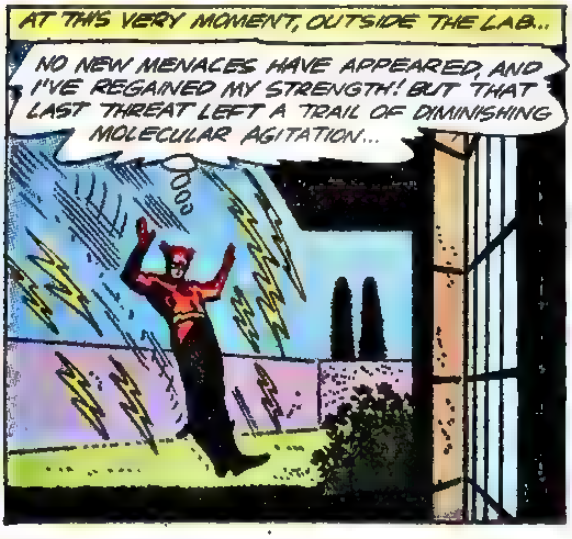

THIS CHUNK OF MATTER FELL FROM OUTER SPACE! IT CAN'T BE A METEOR BECAUSE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE WOULD'VE BURNED IT UP! I'VE TRIED TO ANALYZE IT CHEMICALLY, TO NO AVAIL... IT EVEN RESISTS ANALYSIS BY THE CYCLOTRON!

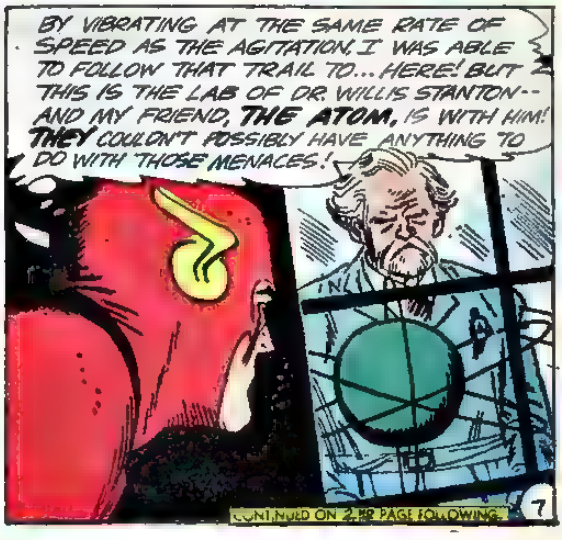












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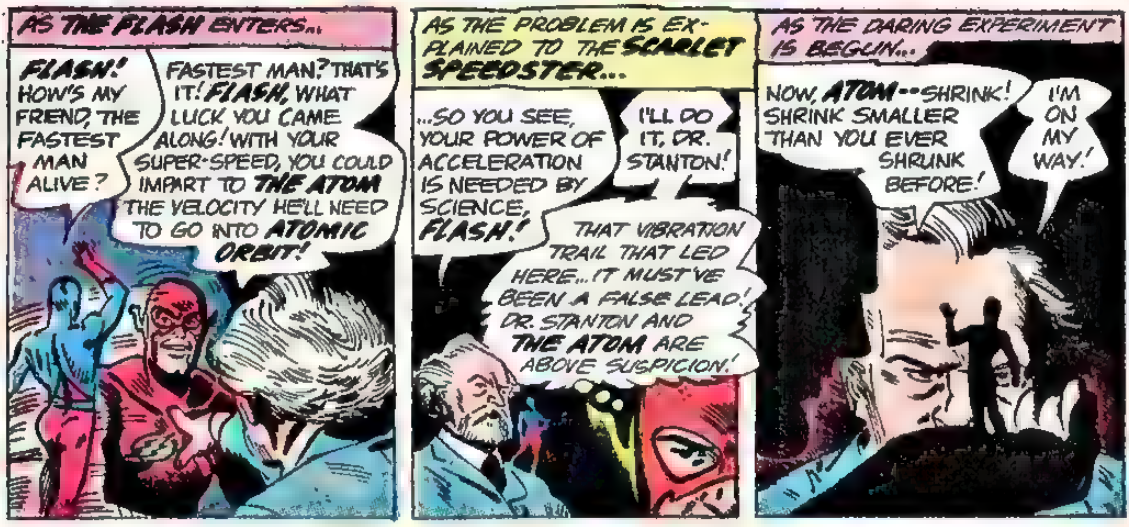
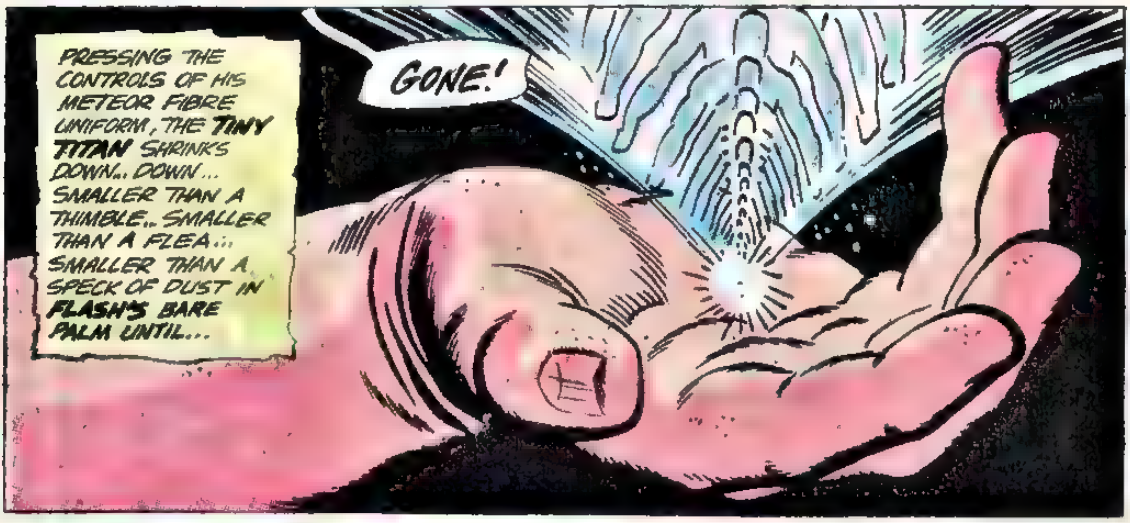
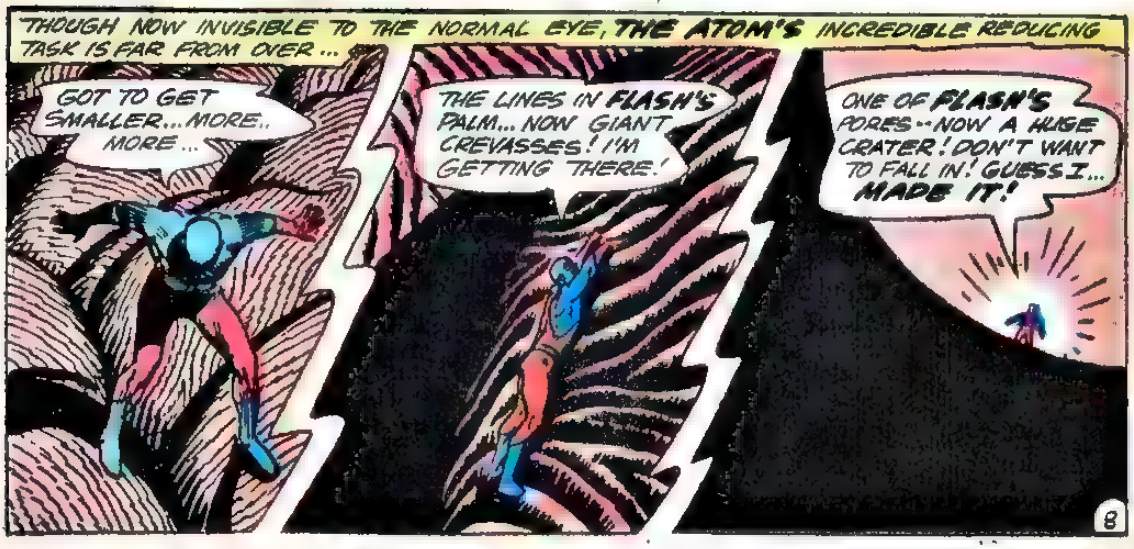
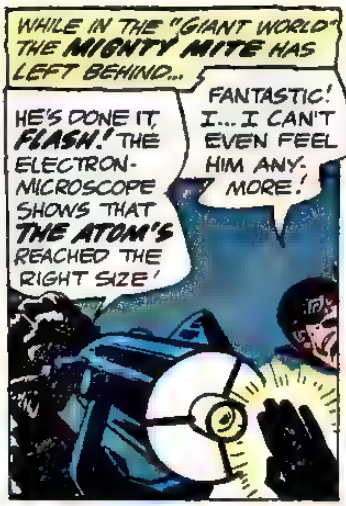
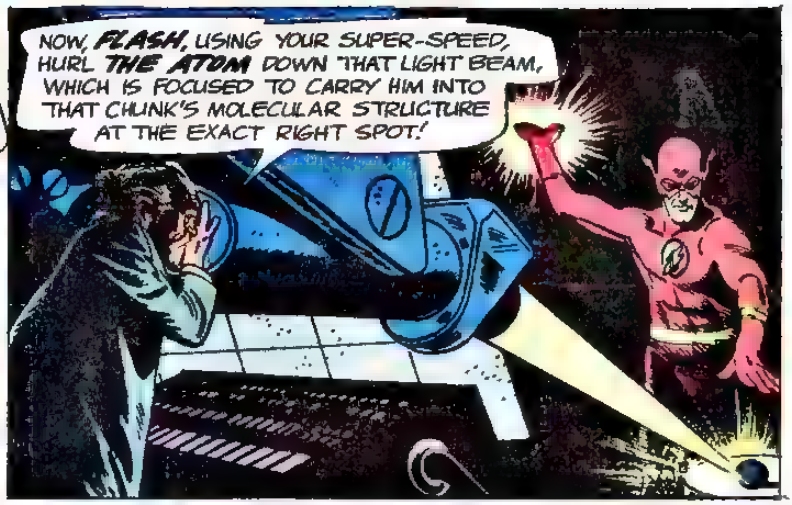

AS THE FLASH ENTERS..
FLASH! HOW'S MY FRIEND, THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE?
FASTEST MAN? THAT'S IT! FLASH, WHAT LUCK YOU CAME ALONG! WITH YOUR SUPER-SPEED, YOU COULD IMPART TO THE ATOM THE VELOCITY HE'LL NEED TO GO INTO ATOMIC ORBIT!
AS THE PROBLEM IS EXPLAINED TO THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER...
...SO YOU SEE, YOUR POWER OF ACCELERATION IS NEEDED BY SCIENCE, FLASH!
I'LL DO IT, DR. STANTON!
THAT VIBRATION TRAIL THAT LED HERE... IT MUST'VE BEEN A FALSE LEAD! DR. STANTON AND THE ATOM ARE ABOVE SUSPICION!
AS THE DARING EXPERIMENT IS BEGUN...
NOW, ATOM--SHRINK! SHRINK SMALLER THAN YOU EVER SHRUNK BEFORE!
I'M ON MY WAY!

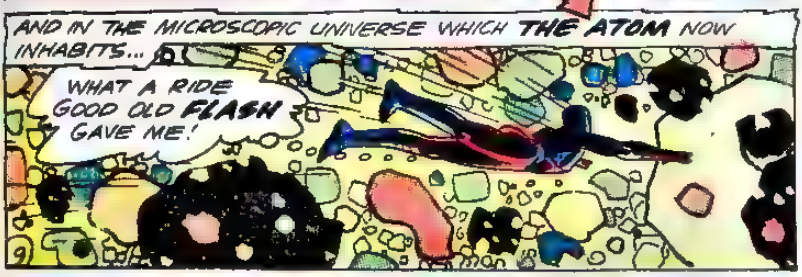

PRESSING THE CONTROLS OF HIS METEOR FIBRE UNIFORM, THE TINY TITAN SHRINKS DOWN.. DOWN... SMALLER THAN A THIMBLE.. SMALLER THAN A FLEA... SMALLER THAN A SPECK OF DUST IN FLASH'S BARE PALM UNTIL...
GONE!


THOUGH NOW INVISIBLE TO THE NORMAL EYE, THE ATOM'S INCREDIBLE REDUCING TASK IS FAR FROM OVER...
GOT TO GET SMALLER... MORE.. MORE...
THE LINES IN FLASH'S PALM... NOW GIANT CREVASSES! I'M GETTING THERE!
ONE OF FLASH'S PORES -- NOW A HUGE CRATER! DON'T WANT TO FALL IN! GUESS I... MADE IT!


WHILE IN THE "GIANT WORLD" THE MIGHTY MITE HAS LEFT BEHIND...
HE'S DONE IT, FLASH! THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPE SHOWS THAT THE ATOM'S REACHED THE RIGHT SIZE!
FANTASTIC! I... I CAN'T EVEN FEEL HIM ANY-MORE!


NOW, FLASH, USING YOUR SUPER-SPEED, HURL THE ATOM DOWN THAT LIGHT BEAM, WHICH IS FOCUSED TO CARRY HIM INTO THAT CHUNK'S MOLECULAR STRUCTURE AT THE EXACT RIGHT SPOT!

WINDING UP LIKE AN OLYMPIC WEIGHT TOSSER, THE MONARCH OF MOTION LETS FLY HIS SUPER-MINUTE MISSILE...


AND IN THE MICROSCOPIC UNIVERSE WHICH THE ATOM NOW INHABITS...
WHAT A RIDE GOOD OLD FLASH GAVE ME!

BUT OUTSIDE...
HOPE THE ATOM WILL BE OKAY... UUUH!
PART 2
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING...

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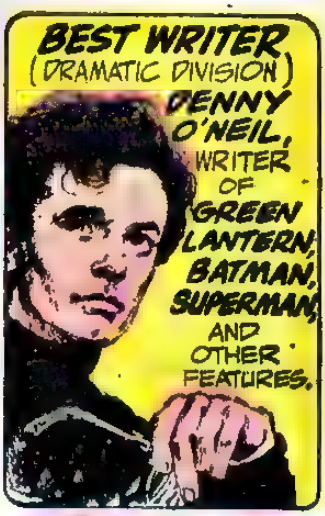
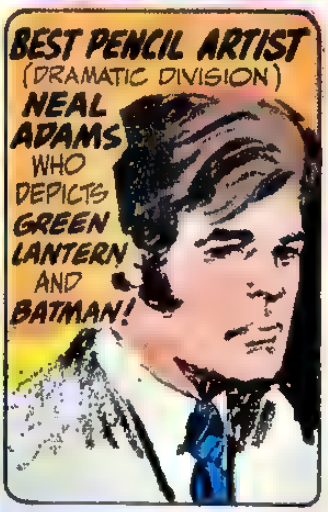
BEST CONTINUING FEATURE: **GREEN LANTERN-GREEN ARROW**

BEST INDIVIDUAL STORY: "NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT!"

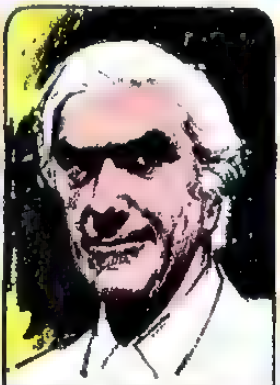


BEST WRITER (DRAMATIC DIVISION) **DENNY O'NEIL**, WRITER OF **GREEN LANTERN, BATMAN, SUPERMAN** AND OTHER FEATURES.



BEST PENCIL ARTIST (DRAMATIC DIVISION) **NEAL ADAMS** WHO DEPICTS **GREEN LANTERN** AND **BATMAN!**

BEST INKER (DRAMATIC DIVISION): **DICK GIORDANO**, INKER OF MANY D.C. FEATURES: SEE HIS WORK ON THE NOVEMBER **GREEN LANTERN-GREEN ARROW!**



BEST PENCIL ARTIST (HUMOR DIVISION): **BOB OKSNER**, PENCILLER OF MANY D.C. HUMOR FEATURES. SEE HIS DRAMATIC ART IN THE CURRENT **ADVENTURE COMICS!**

BEST INKER (HUMOR DIVISION): **HENRY SCARPELLI**, WHOSE INKS HAVE LONG GRACED OUR HUMOR MAGS, SUCH AS **BINKY** AND **DEBBI!**

BEST COLORIST: JACK ADLER, HEAD OF **DC's** COLORING DEPT. HE COLORS MANY OF THE STORIES YOU SEE IN OUR COMICS!

PART 2

HURTLING INTO THE MOLECULAR FACADE OF THE MYSTERIOUS MATTER CHUNK FROM OUTER SPACE, **THE ATOM**, REDUCED TO **SUB-ATOMIC** SIZE, NEARS THE END OF HIS BRIEF BUT FANTASTIC JOURNEY...

I'M IN--AND THERE'S THE ATOM I'M SUPPOSED TO INFILTRATE! GOT TO HIT THE ORBIT OF THAT MISSING ELECTRON DEAD-ON!

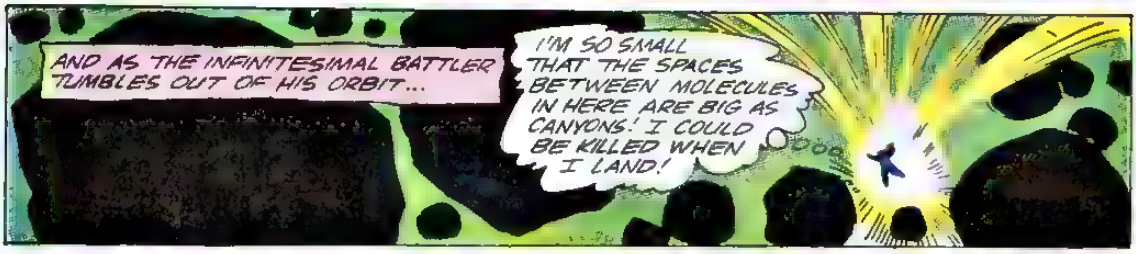
ARCING LIKE A HIGH-WIRE ACROBAT, THE **MIGHTY MITE** AIMS HIS INCREDIBLY SPEEDING BODY AT THE VACANT ORBITAL PATH--AND, IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

I'M IN!

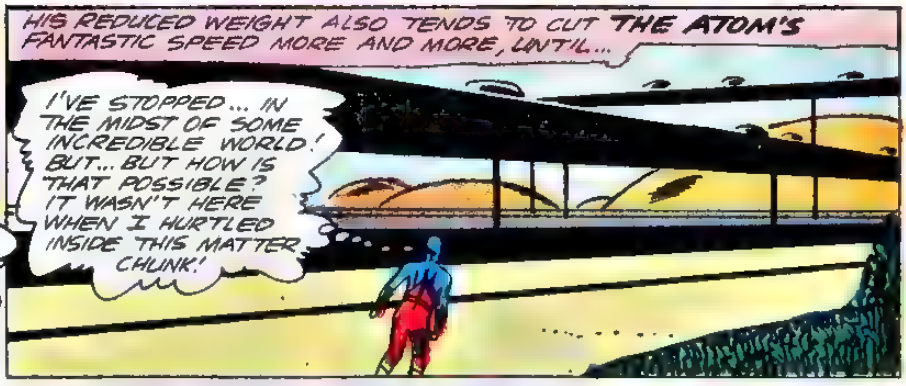
AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, BACK IN DR. STANTON'S LAB...

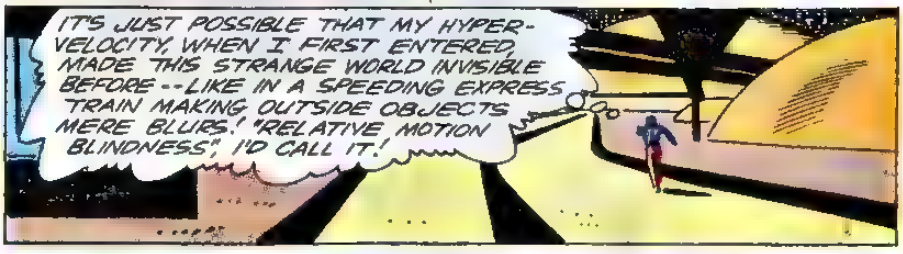
SUCCESS! OPERATION NEW WORLD IS ON THE WAY--AND **THE FLASH** AND **THE ATOM** HELPED ME DO IT! **HA! HA! HA!**

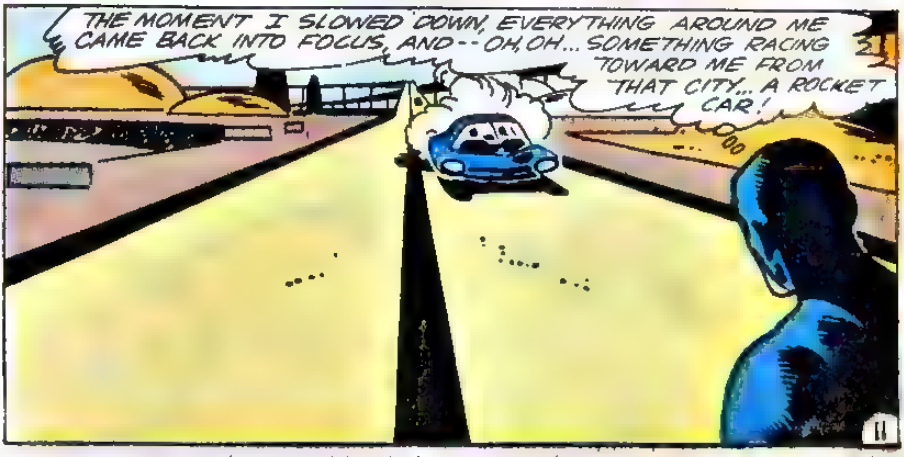
MEANWHILE, WHIRLING AT STUPEFYING VELOCITY INSIDE THE GREEN BALL...
OH, OH... THIS MERRY-GO-ROUND'S EXPLODING! I'VE GOT TO GET OFF!
WHAMMMMMMMMM!!!

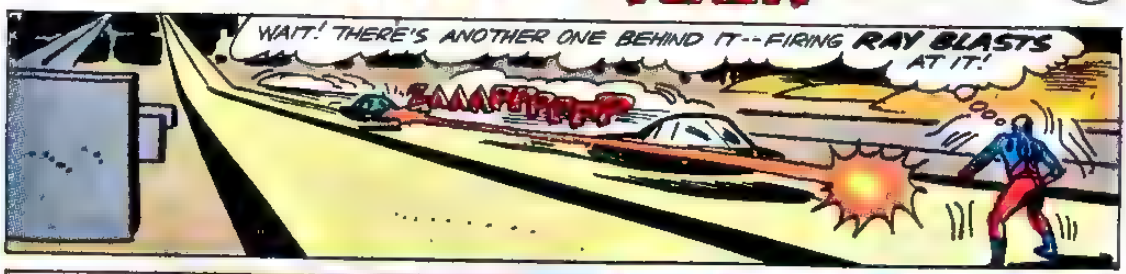

AND AS THE INFINITESIMAL BATTLER TUMBLES OUT OF HIS ORBIT...
I'M SO SMALL THAT THE SPACES BETWEEN MOLECULES IN HERE ARE BIG AS CANYONS! I COULD BE KILLED WHEN I LAND!

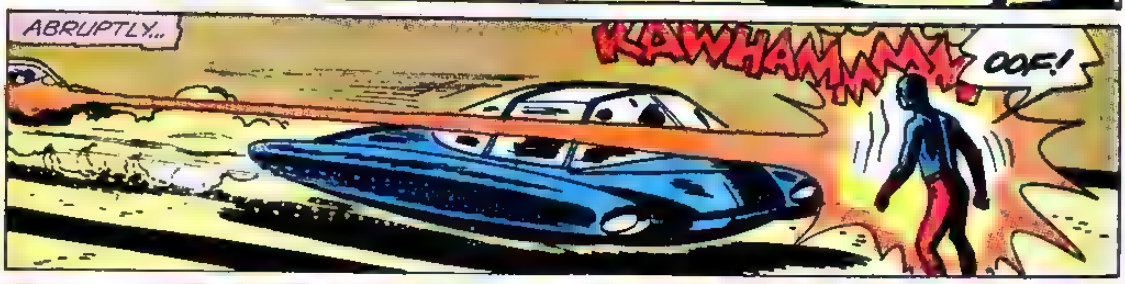
QUICKLY, HE PRESSES ANOTHER CONTROL ON HIS MIRACULOUS UNIFORM...
I'VE MADE MYSELF LIGHTER--LIGHTER EVEN THAN AN ELECTRON--SO NOW I'M JUST FLOATING HARMLESSLY!

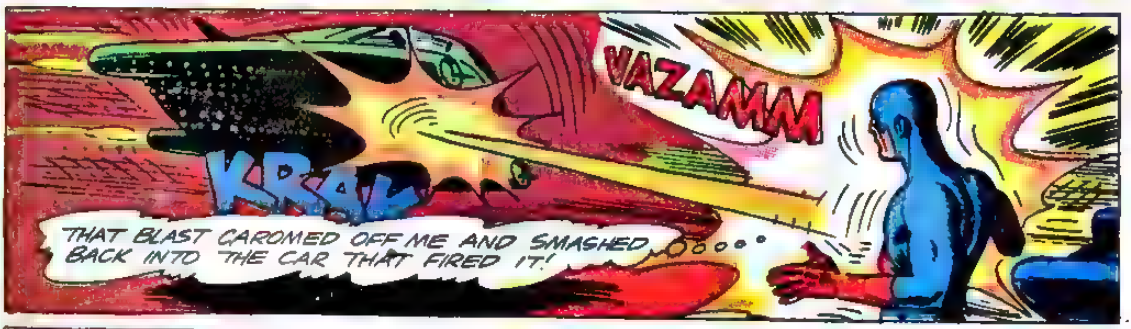

HIS REDUCED WEIGHT ALSO TENDS TO CUT THE ATOM'S FANTASTIC SPEED MORE AND MORE, UNTIL...
I'VE STOPPED... IN THE MIDST OF SOME INCREDIBLE WORLD! BUT... BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? IT WASN'T HERE WHEN I HURTLED INSIDE THIS MATTER CHUNK!


IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT MY HYPER-VELOCITY, WHEN I FIRST ENTERED, MADE THIS STRANGE WORLD INVISIBLE BEFORE--LIKE IN A SPEEDING EXPRESS TRAIN MAKING OUTSIDE OBJECTS MERE BLURS! "RELATIVE MOTION BLINDNESS", I'D CALL IT!

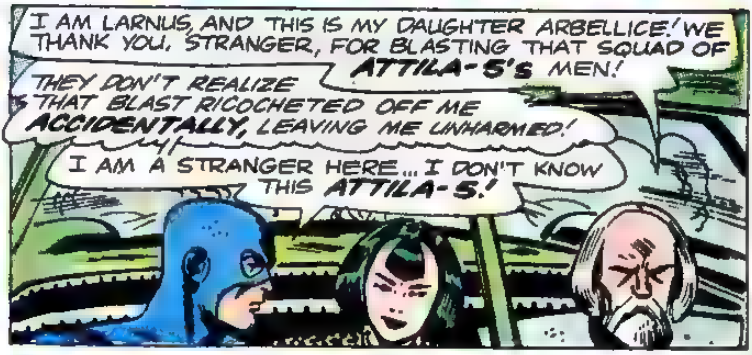

THE MOMENT I SLOWED DOWN, EVERYTHING AROUND ME CAME BACK INTO FOCUS, AND--OH, OH... SOMETHING RACING TOWARD ME FROM THAT CITY... A ROCKET CAR!

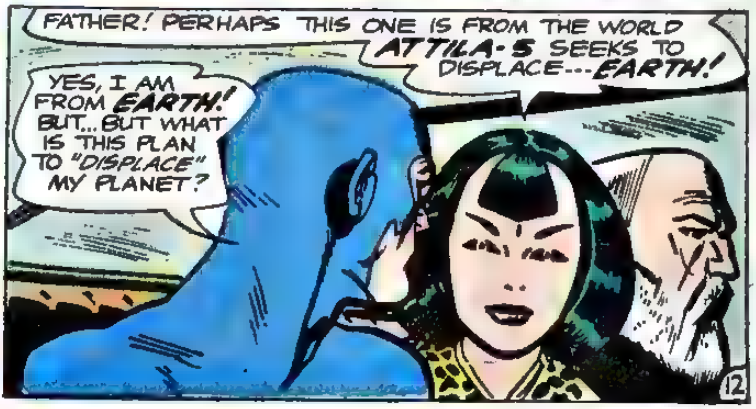

WAIT! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE BEHIND IT--FIRING RAY BLASTS AT IT!
ZAAAPPPPP!

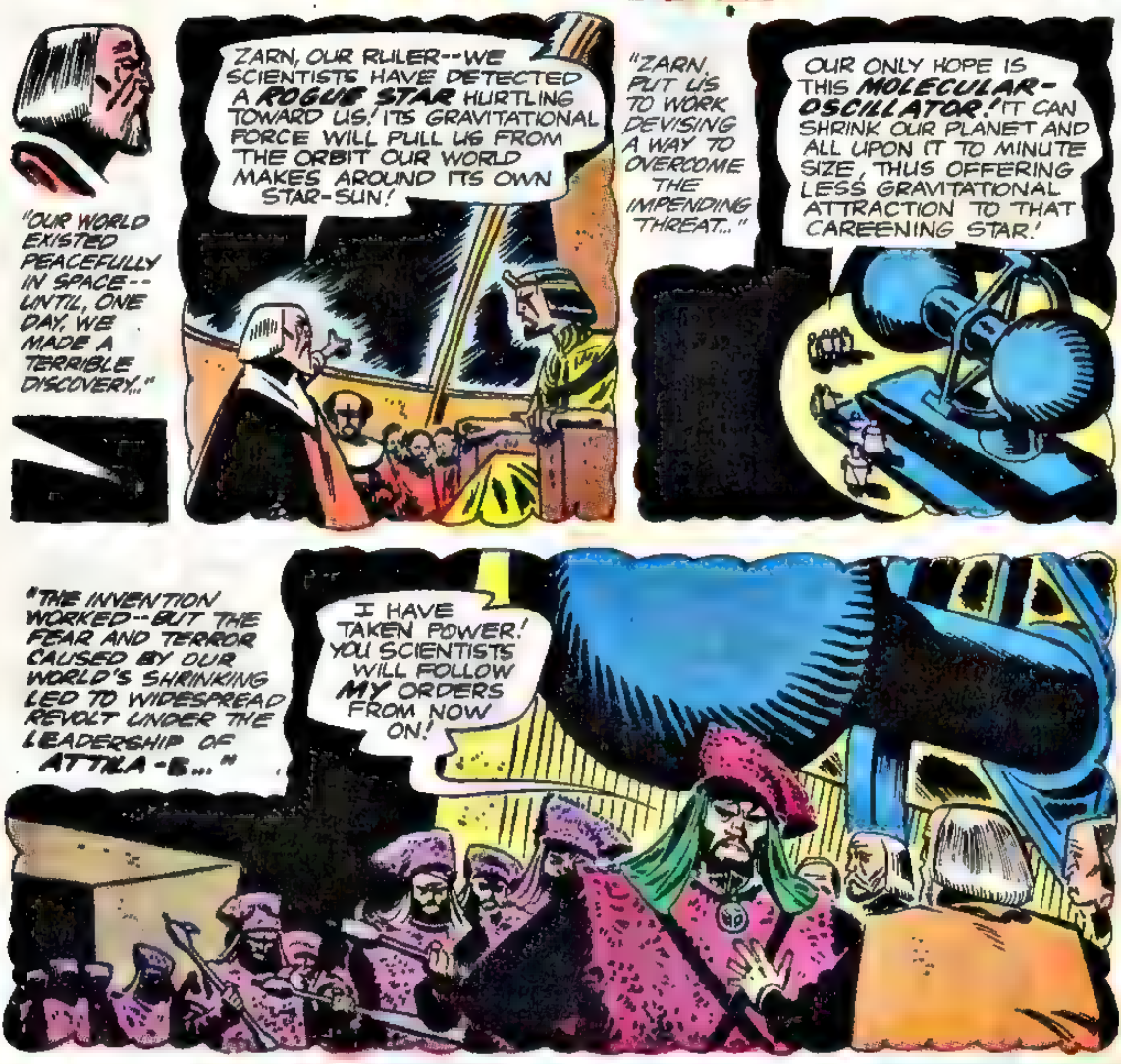

ABRUPTLY...
KAWHAMMM!
OOF!

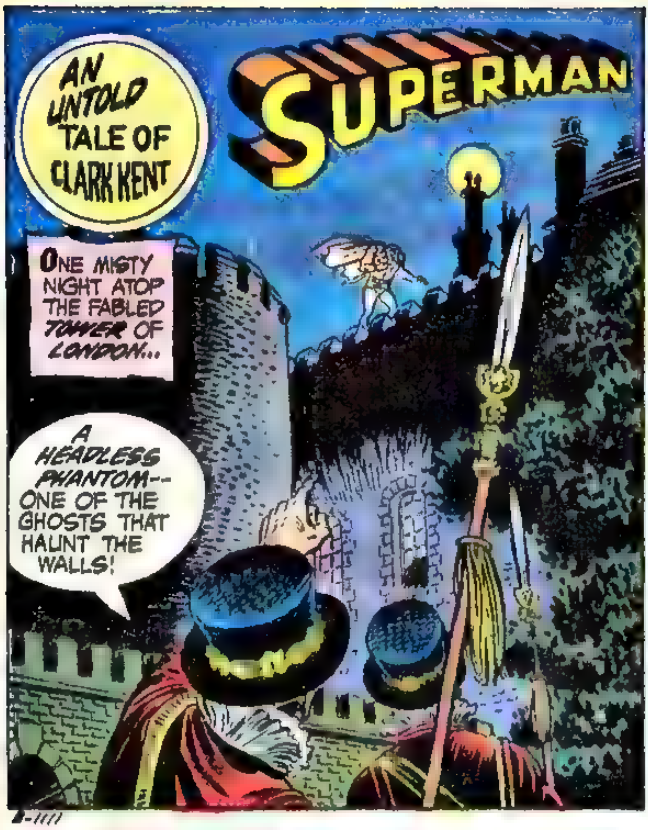

VAZAMM
KRSH
THAT BLAST CAROMED OFF ME AND SMASHED BACK INTO THE CAR THAT FIRED IT!

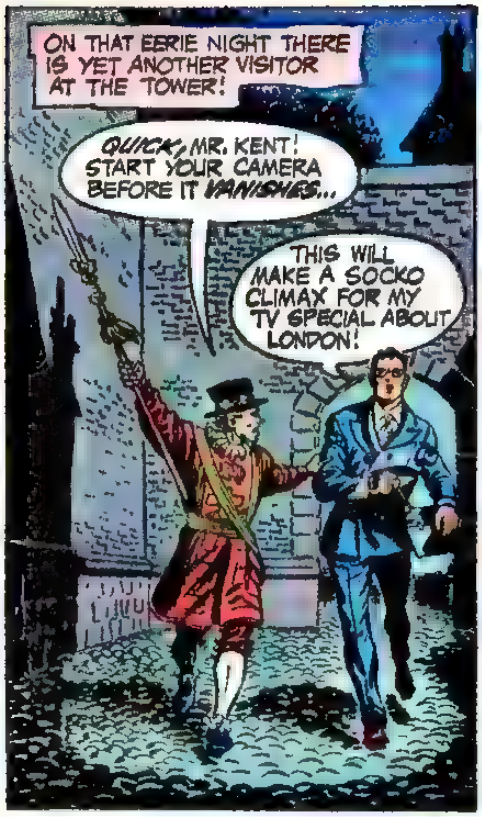
AND BEFORE THE ATOM CAN FATHOM THIS STARTLING OCCURRENCE...
YOU, STRANGER... FOR HELPING US, THE HORDES OF ATTILA-5 WILL SURELY HUNT YOU DOWN! COME WITH US... QUICKLY!


I AM LARNUS, AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER ARBELLICE! WE THANK YOU, STRANGER, FOR BLASTING THAT SQUAD OF ATTILA-5's MEN!
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT BLAST RICOCHETED OFF ME ACCIDENTALLY, LEAVING ME UNHARMED!
I AM A STRANGER HERE... I DON'T KNOW THIS ATTILA-5!


FATHER! PERHAPS THIS ONE IS FROM THE WORLD ATTILA-5 SEEKS TO DISPLACE---EARTH!
YES, I AM FROM EARTH! BUT... BUT WHAT IS THIS PLAN TO "DISPLACE" MY PLANET?


"OUR WORLD EXISTED PEACEFULLY IN SPACE--UNTIL, ONE DAY, WE MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY..."
ZARN, OUR RULER--WE SCIENTISTS HAVE DETECTED A ROGUE STAR HURTLING TOWARD US! ITS GRAVITATIONAL FORCE WILL PULL US FROM THE ORBIT OUR WORLD MAKES AROUND ITS OWN STAR-SUN!
"ZARN, PUT US TO WORK DEVISING A WAY TO OVERCOME THE IMPENDING THREAT..."
OUR ONLY HOPE IS THIS MOLECULAR-OSCILLATOR! IT CAN SHRINK OUR PLANET AND ALL UPON IT TO MINUTE SIZE, THUS OFFERING LESS GRAVITATIONAL ATTRACTION TO THAT CAREENING STAR!
"THE INVENTION WORKED--BUT THE FEAR AND TERROR CAUSED BY OUR WORLD'S SHRINKING LED TO WIDESPREAD REVOLT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ATTILA-E..."
I HAVE TAKEN POWER! YOU SCIENTISTS WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS FROM NOW ON!
"THE ROGUE STAR SPUN INTO OUR ORBITAL PATH, AND..."
IT PASSED... WE'RE SAFE NOW! RETURN OUR WORLD TO NORMAL SIZE, TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LACK OF GRAVITATIONAL PULL CAUSED BY THAT STAR LEAVING THE VICINITY!
"BUT SOMETHING HAD GONE WRONG--AND DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, OUR PLANET REMAINED A TINY SPECK WHICH FELL OUT OF ORBIT INTO THE WASTES OF SPACE..."
BLUNDERING FOOLS! YOU SAY WE NEED AN OUTSIDE INTELLIGENCE TO FREE US FROM THIS PUNY STATE? VERY WELL--SET COURSE FOR... EARTH!
"THE EXPLOSIVE CONCLUSION IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE!





YES, SUPERMAN IS CLARK KENT'S SECRET IDENTITY... SO HOW CAN A LIVING MAN COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS OWN SPECTRE? WHAT DREAD MYSTERY, WHAT SPINE-FREEZING SECRET LIES BEHIND...

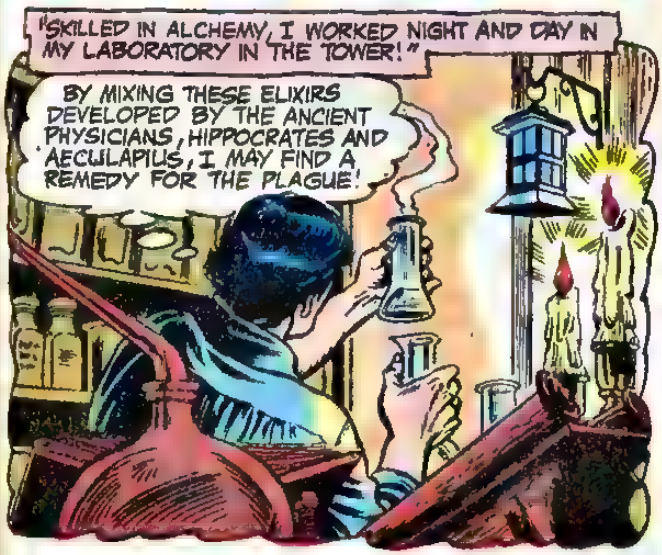
The GHOST That HAUNTED CLARK KENT

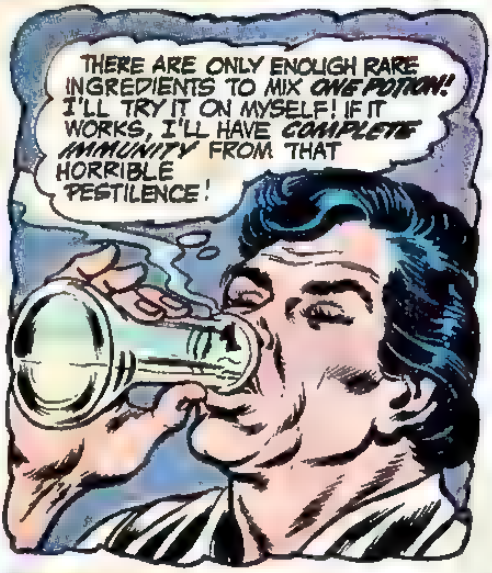
ART: SWAN & ANDERSON
STORY: GEOFF BROWNE

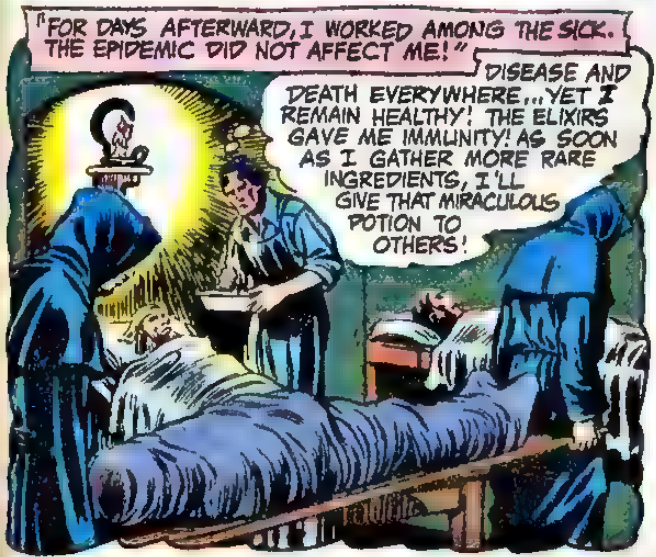
EXCUSE M-ME! I J-JUST REMEMBERED AN IMPORTANT PHONE CALL!
I HEARD HE WAS A SPINELESS JELLYFISH! WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE'D BE SCARED OFF!
BUT IN A REMOTE CORNER OF THE TOWER, CLARK USES HIS X-RAY VISION!
UNBELIEVABLE! MY GHOSTLY DOUBLE IS PASSING THROUGH THE STONE WALLS INTO A SEALED-OFF ROOM! AND HE'S PUTTING HIS HEAD BACK ON!
IS SOMETHING GOING WRONG WITH MY SUPER-VISION? HE'S BECOMING ANOTHER SUPERMAN... IN THE FLESH!
THIS I'VE GOT TO SEE--
--IN PERSON--
--AS SUPERMAN!
LIKE A MIGHTY SUPER-DRILL, HE BORES THROUGH THE BATTLEMENTS...
I DRILLED UP FROM FAR BENEATH THE ANCIENT FOUNDATION SO NO ONE CAN FOLLOW ME!
NOW TO SURPRISE MY WEIRDO COUNTERPART!
RRRRRRRRRR
AH, SUPERMAN OR KENT... WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS! I WAS HOPING YOU'D TAKE THE BAIT AND FOLLOW ME HERE!
HE KNOWS MY DOUBLE IDENTITY!
WHO ARE YOU? SHOW YOUR FACE!
2

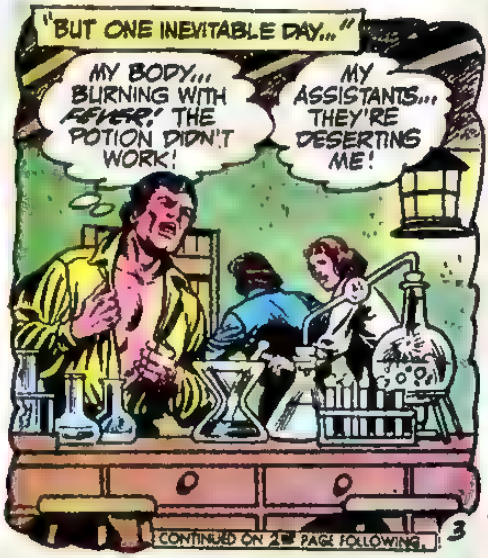
UGH! I THOUGHT HE'D RESEMBLE ME! BUT HE HAS THE SHRIVELED FACE AND BODY OF A MUMMY!
HORRIFYING, EH?... I WILL EXPLAIN! I AM DR. TROY MAGNUS. THREE CENTURIES AGO I WAS THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN...

...THAT WAS BACK IN 1665 WHEN THE PLAGUE ARRIVED IN LONDON..."
THE KING'S SERVANTS ARE DYING LIKE FLIES. YOU MUST DO SOMETHING, DR. MAGNUS!
I AM EXPERIMENTING WITH A POSSIBLE CURE, YOUR EXCELLENCY! BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME!


"SKILLED IN ALCHEMY, I WORKED NIGHT AND DAY IN MY LABORATORY IN THE TOWER!"
BY MIXING THESE ELIXIRS DEVELOPED BY THE ANCIENT PHYSICIANS, HIPPOCRATES AND AECULAPIUS, I MAY FIND A REMEDY FOR THE PLAGUE!


THERE ARE ONLY ENOUGH RARE INGREDIENTS TO MIX ONE POTION! I'LL TRY IT ON MYSELF! IF IT WORKS, I'LL HAVE COMPLETE IMMUNITY FROM THAT HORRIBLE PESTILENCE!


"FOR DAYS AFTERWARD, I WORKED AMONG THE SICK. THE EPIDEMIC DID NOT AFFECT ME!"
DISEASE AND DEATH EVERYWHERE... YET I REMAIN HEALTHY! THE ELIXIRS GAVE ME IMMUNITY! AS SOON AS I GATHER MORE RARE INGREDIENTS, I'LL GIVE THAT MIRACULOUS POTION TO OTHERS!


"BUT ONE INEVITABLE DAY..."
MY BODY... BURNING WITH FEVER! THE POTION DIDN'T WORK!
MY ASSISTANTS... THEY'RE DESERTING ME!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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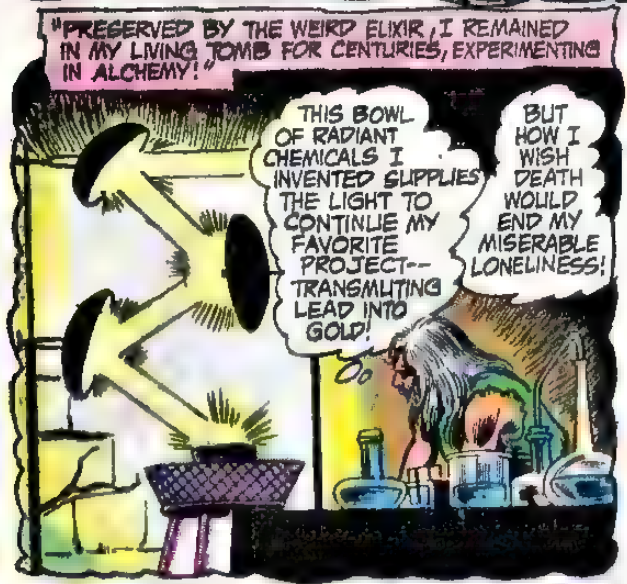
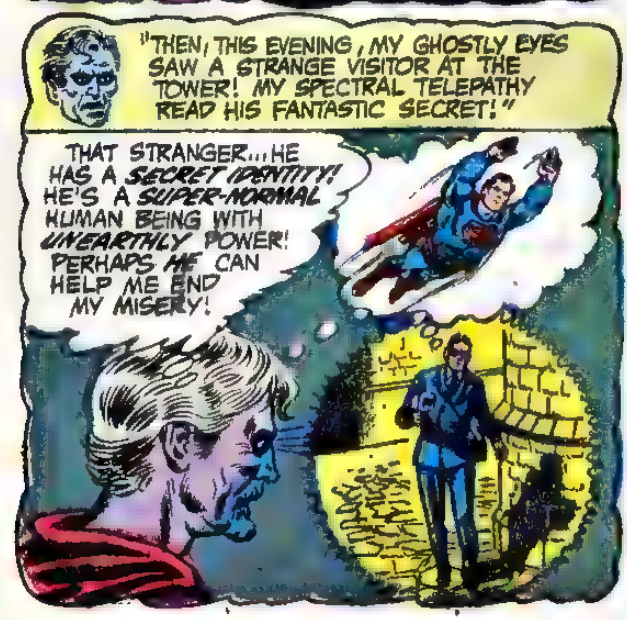
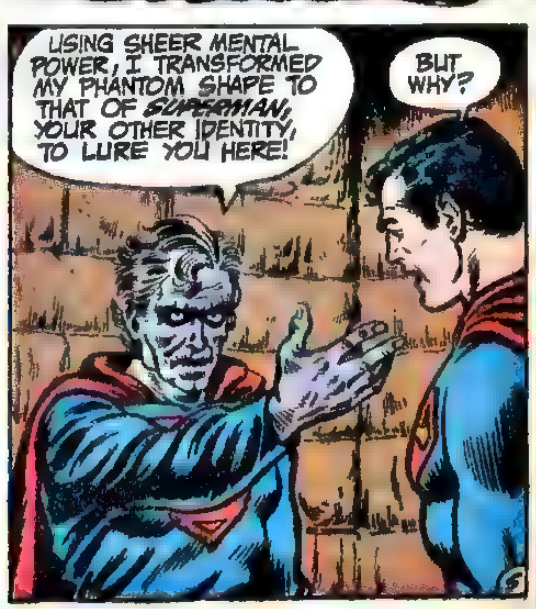
"THEN CAME THE CRISIS! BUT INSTEAD OF DYING..."
MY BODY...
IT'S CHANGING...
BECOMING TRANSLUCENT...
I'M TURNING INTO A BODILESS SPECTRE...
I MUST BE DEAD!
"BUT TO MY AMAZEMENT..."
NO! I'M BECOMING REAL AGAIN! I'M ALIVE! I FEEL A STRANGE NEW STRENGTH SURGING THROUGH ME! I'M CURED! THAT ELIXIR DID GIVE ME IMMUNITY!
"BUT WHEN I RETURNED TO WORK AMONG THE PLAGUE VICTIMS..."
MAGNUS, I'VE BEEN WATCHING! THAT'S THE SEVENTH MAN YOU TREATED THIS MORNING... AND ALL SEVEN DIED! EVEN THOSE WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE PLAGUE!
HE'S RIGHT! IT'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE I CURED MYSELF!
"REALIZING THE GHASTLY TRUTH, I APPEALED TO THE ROYAL GUARD."
I'M SPREADING THE PLAGUE EVERYWHERE! I HAVE THE TOUCH OF DEATH! KILL ME, BEFORE I WIPE OUT EVERYONE IN LONDON!
THE OTHER DOCTORS CONFIRM IT! WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
"BUT WHEN THEIR WEAPONS STRUCK HOME..."
HE CHANGED TO A GHOST AT THE TOUCH OF OUR BLADES! NO MORTAL WEAPON CAN HARM HIM!
INCREDIBLE! BECAUSE OF THAT ELIXIR, THE VERY THREAT OF DEATH TURNS MY BODY INTO A PHANTOM!
4

"I WAS A MENACE TO MANKIND. THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE!"
YES, SEAL ME UP IN THE WALLS OF THE TOWER, OR ALL LONDON MAY PERISH BECAUSE OF ME!
WORK QUICKLY! WE MUST KEEP HIM FROM SPREADING CONTAGION!

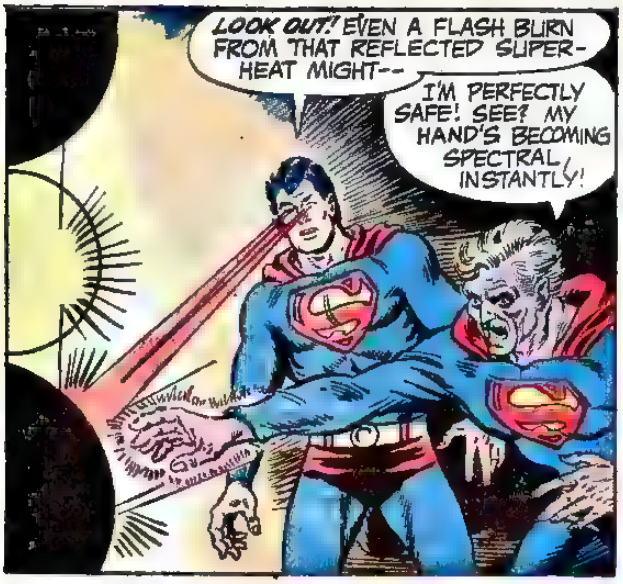

"PRESERVED BY THE WEIRD ELIXIR, I REMAINED IN MY LIVING TOMB FOR CENTURIES, EXPERIMENTING IN ALCHEMY!"
THIS BOWL OF RADIANT CHEMICALS I INVENTED SUPPLIES THE LIGHT TO CONTINUE MY FAVORITE PROJECT-- TRANSMUTING LEAD INTO GOLD!
BUT HOW I WISH DEATH WOULD END MY MISERABLE LONELINESS!

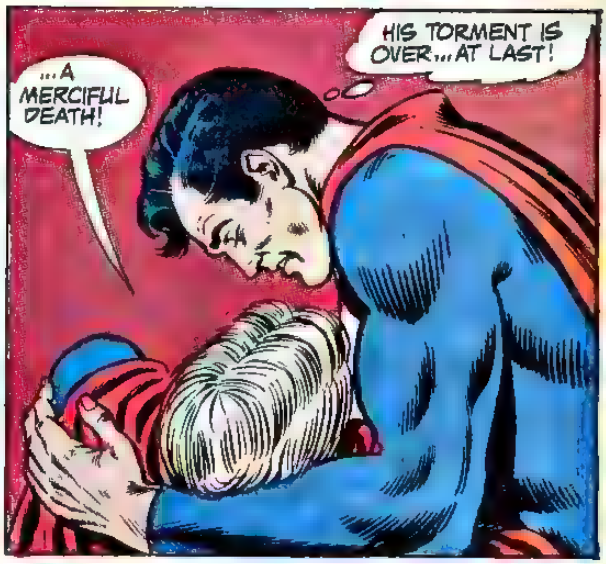
"OVER THE CENTURIES, I LEARNED TO TRANSFORM MY BODY INTO A PHANTOM AT WILL. AS A GHOST, I COULD PASS THROUGH MY PRISON WALLS!"
TIMES CHANGE! PEOPLE LIVE AND DIE! BUT THERE IS NO REST FOR ME! IT'S A LIVING DEATH!

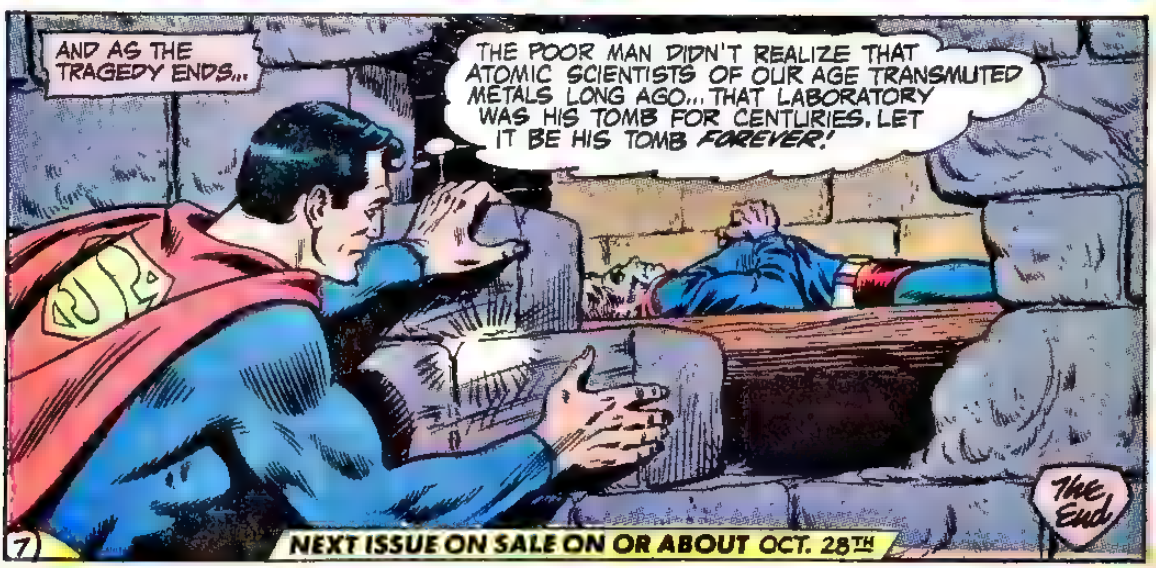

"THEN, THIS EVENING, MY GHOSTLY EYES SAW A STRANGE VISITOR AT THE TOWER! MY SPECTRAL TELEPATHY READ HIS FANTASTIC SECRET!"
THAT STRANGER... HE HAS A SECRET IDENTITY! HE'S A SUPER-NORMAL HUMAN BEING WITH UNEARTHLY POWER! PERHAPS HE CAN HELP ME END MY MISERY!


USING SHEER MENTAL POWER, I TRANSFORMED MY PHANTOM SHAPE TO THAT OF SUPERMAN, YOUR OTHER IDENTITY, TO LURE YOU HERE!
BUT WHY?

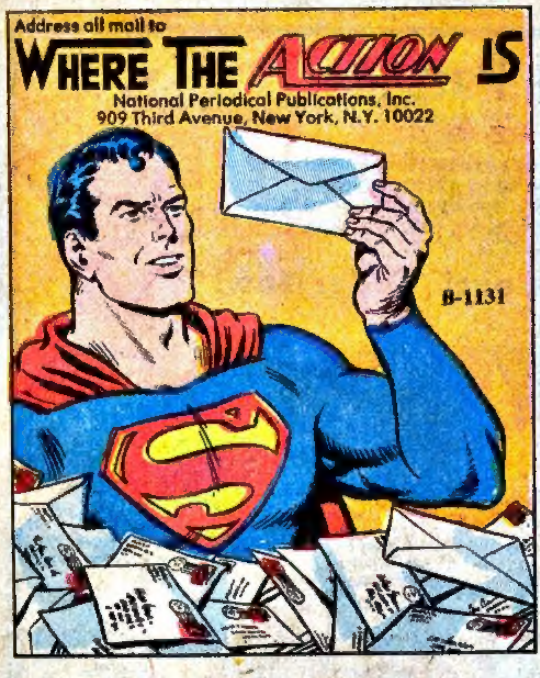
I'M TIRED OF LIVING LIKE THIS...NEITHER ALIVE NOR DEAD! I WANT TO END IT ALL, YET NO MORTAL WEAPON CAN HARM ME! BUT YOU--WITH YOUR SUPERPOWERS...
I? I-I CAN'T! AS SUPERMAN, I SWORE NEVER TO USE MY POWERS TO KILL!
MUST I BE IMPRISONED HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY--JUST BECAUSE I TRIED TO HELP OTHERS? HAVE YOU NO MERCY?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING! I GAVE A SACRED OATH TO USE MY POWERS ONLY TO SERVE MANKIND!
I UNDERSTAND! ONCE I TOO SWORE TO USE MY SKILLS ONLY TO SAVE LIVES!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO? MY HANDS ARE TIED!
ONE SMALL FAVOR BEFORE YOU GO! PLEASE SEAL UP THE CRACKS YOU MADE IN THAT WALL! IF THE CONTAMINATION IN THIS LABORATORY SEEPS OUT, IT MIGHT START A NEW HORRIBLE PLAGUE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
MY HEAT-VISION WILL REMEDY THAT AT ONCE!
BUT AS THE BEAMS OF SUPER-HEAT LANCE OUT...
CAREFUL! YOU'LL MELT THE PARABOLIC MIRRORS I'M USING IN MY TRANSMUTATION EXPERIMENT!
SSSSSS
6







NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT OCT. 28TH



Dear Editor: The cover of ACTION #402 was sensationally colored and excellently drawn. It provided a fine lead-in to "This Hostage Must Die," which was as exciting as the cover.

Once again, Leo Dorfman produced a tale which contained suspense and emotion in just the right proportions. The ending was a little *too* sugar-coated, but that really didn't detract from the quality of the story.

I have mixed feelings about the second tale. The hate relationship was different to see and interesting, as was Superman's comment on Women's Lib (by the way, how does he *really* feel about it? I hope it never comes between him and Lois!), but the reason behind the hate was too flimsy and formulated.

By far, the highlight of the lettercol was the touching note from the unfortunate little boy with the braces on his legs. It was a beautiful gesture on your part to publish it, and I'm sure you've made that boy very happy. I salute you for that.

Gerard Triano, Elmont, N.Y.

You should know how happy getting letters into print makes one, Gerry. Seems like we're printing more Triano missives all the time. But that's because you write such good ones! —Ed.

Dear Editor: "This Hostage Must Die" brought an interesting question to mind. Is Superman still vulnerable to magic? After reading the first part of the adventure last month, I thought that the red stone was actually magical and that was why the Man of Steel lost his powers. I also considered that you might blame the Super-Sandman, but I didn't think you would. The red sun idea was different, but it seemed a bit far-fetched when the smoke cut off its effect.

In any event, that brings me back to my original question: Does magic still affect the Metropolis Marvel, or have you dispensed with it?

Bob Rozakis, Elmont, N.Y.

Not a bit of it! And as proof, get a look at the current issue of WORLD'S FINEST, starring Superman and Batman. What's more, in the next (December) WORLD'S FINEST, Superman teams with Doctor Fate to learn why magic can zap him! —Ed.

Dear Editor: While Dick Giordano may be a terrible inker for Curt Swan, he's better for Adams than Adams himself! Just witness the excellent cover of ACTION #402. Except for Superman's face, which is a bit flat, it is an absolute masterpiece.

I wish I could say the same for the story it illustrated. In having Frank Haldane turn out to be a criminal, Leo undermined what I felt to be one of the best points of last issue's "Invaders, Go Home": the fact that many people who act unjustly have good intentions and honestly feel they're doing the right thing. Both Haldane and Red Hawk were presented this way in the last issue, and this issue's portrayal of Haldane as a traditional villain was a big disappointment to me.

I feel if Superman had been allowed to demonstrate to Haldane the selfishness of his actions, and then build him another base elsewhere, you would have had a much better story, with a happy ending for all concerned. Less exciting, perhaps, but more true-to-life; isn't that what you say you're trying to achieve?

I will pass over "The Feud of the Titans"; the only good thing about the story was the always-excellent Swan-Anderson art. I'd thought the elimination of Red Kryptonite would put an end to such "incredible occurrence" stories, but it seems merely to have resulted in more contrived explanations. Such petty annoyances as Superman's mention of the "Women's Lib" movement and his statement that Supergirl's "impenetrable costume" protected her (although the costume she wore in this story was *not* impenetrable) destroyed whatever quality this story might have had.

Richard H. Morrissey, Framingham, Mass.

First, let us point out your boo-boo! Dick Giordano did not ink the cover in question—Neal Adams did it himself! Next—our explanation for the Supergirl costume. If it were from Krypton, it would have been vulnerable to the same thing she was. But this one was treated with a chemical Superman invented, which renders Earth fabrics impenetrable for a time. Will you buy that alibi? —Ed.

Dear Editor: To have social conflicts, or to have science-fiction conflicts? That is the super-question. And as far as compromises go, the serial "Invaders, Go Home-This Hostage Must Die" was the most absurd hybrid of the two I ever saw. On one hand, we have the plight of the American Indian: Superman must make a decision on this social problem. On the other hand, look at these far-out devices: a "mirage projector," a mechanical drill disguised as a missile, a small jewel that siphons off and focuses enough red-sun rays from a distant star to weaken Superman, and a Moon Flower (far out!). It was hilarious to read, but my mind rearranged it into two separate stories, each using a different one of the two approaches. I enjoyed both of them!

Bernie Williams, San Pedro, Calif.

How do you like THAT—starts with criticism, then ends up with praise! And including an Indian girl named Moon Flower as a science-fiction gimmick—far out! —Ed.

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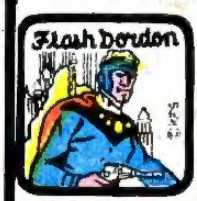

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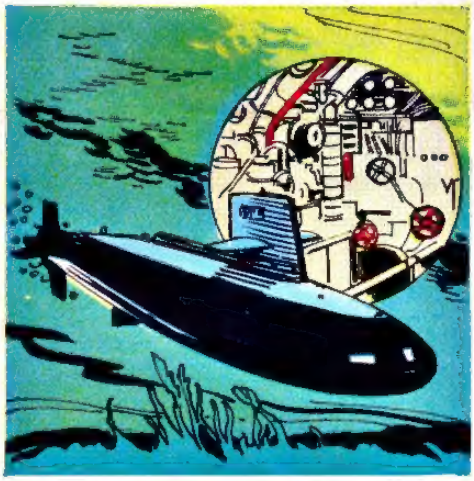

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